Movavi Slideshow Creator User Manual

Quick Start Guide

English | Русский

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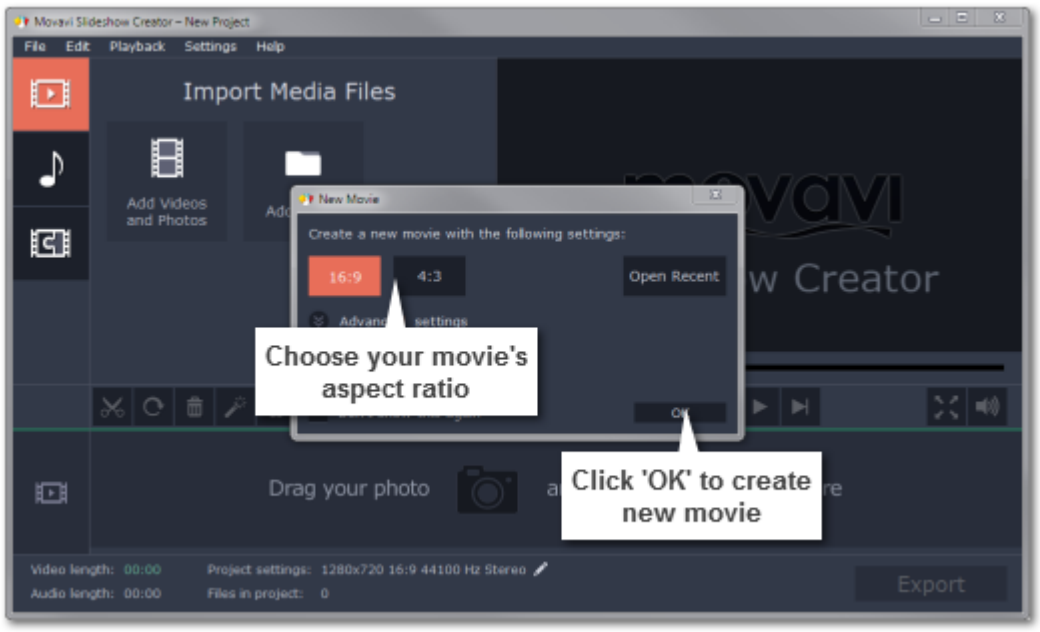
Movavi Slideshow Creator
Quick Start Guide

Movavi Slideshow Creator lets you create video slideshows with your photo albums, complete with background music and smooth transitions.

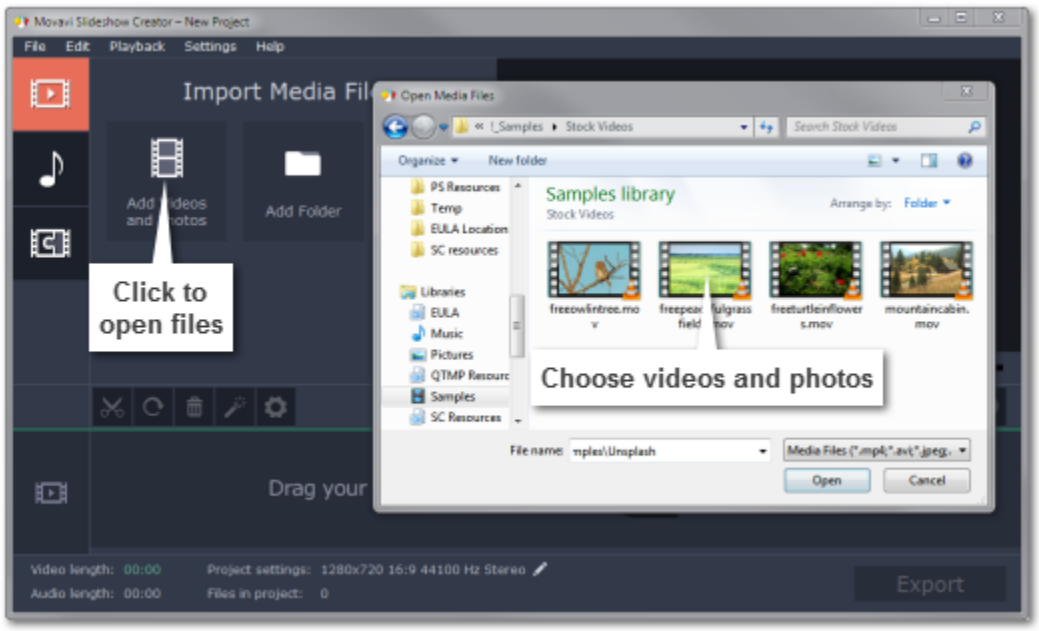
Step 1: Create a project

When you first start Slideshow Creator, you will be asked to choose an aspect ratio for your slideshow. This depends on the proportions of the photos you'll be using. Most modern monitors have a 16:9 aspect ratio.
You will be able to change this later.



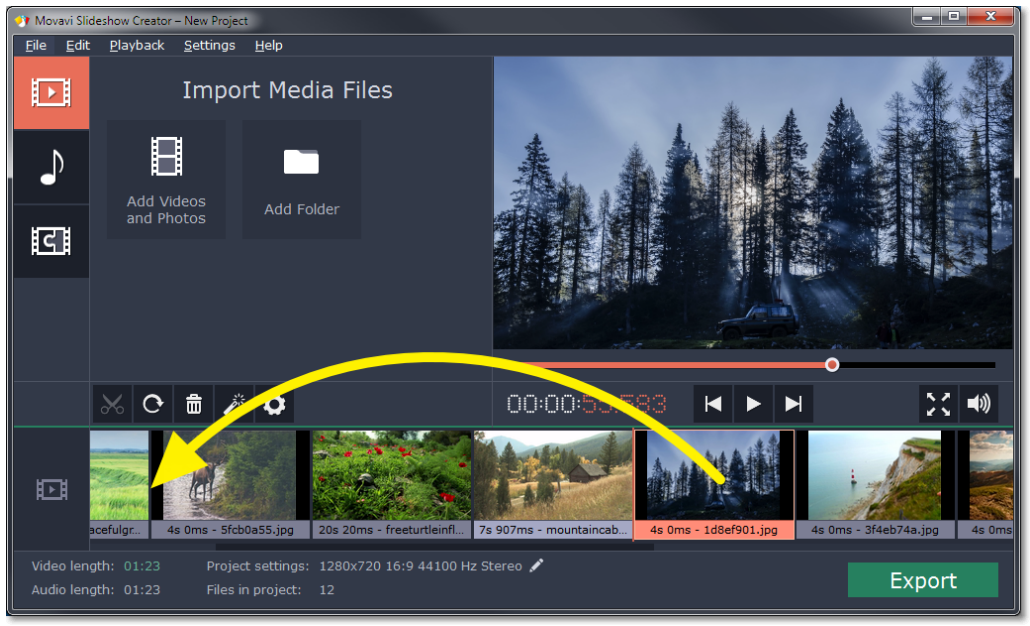
Step 2: Add files

In the **Video & Photo** tab, click **Add Videos and Photos** to choose the files you'll be using, or click **Add Folder** to add an entire photo album.



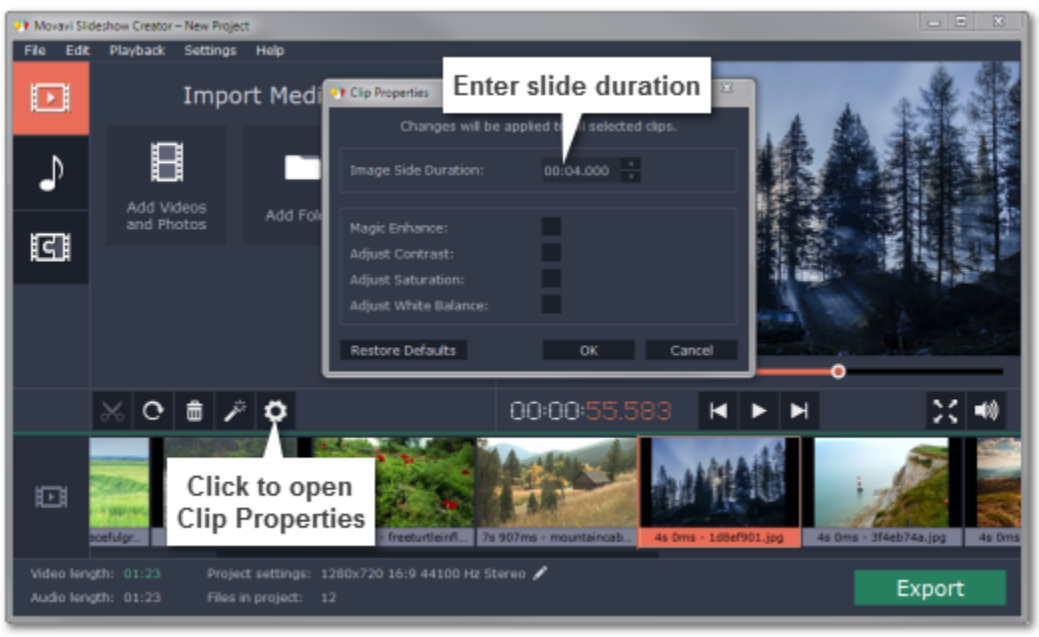
Step 3: Arrange files

The clips you add will be placed onto the Storyboard in the same order as you added them. To rearrange the files, simply drag-and-drop their thumbnails onto the correct place relative to the other clips.



Step 4: Set slide duration

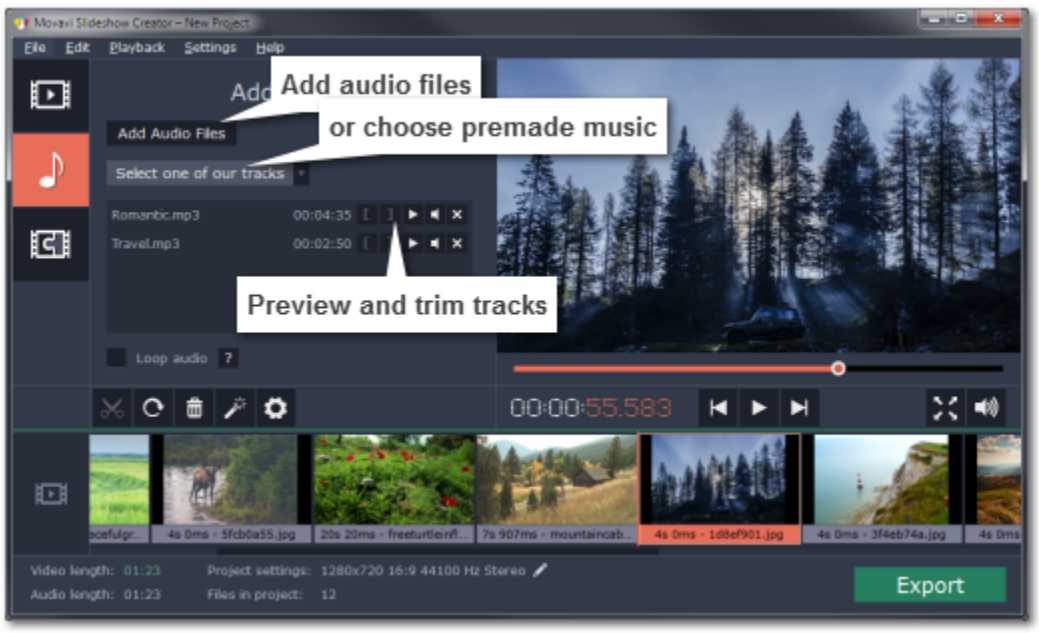
By default, all photo slides will be shown for four seconds each. To change that, click the cogwheel button to open **Clip Properties**, and enter a new **Image Slide Duration**.



Step 5: Add music

Next, switch to the **Audio** tab, where you can add background music. We've included a few pre-made songs that you can use in your projects. To add your own songs, click **Add Audio Files** and choose the audio files you want to add.

The tracks will be played in the same order as they appear in the list. To trim a track, start playing the song, and click the left or right bracket button to trim it from the beginning or from the end, respectively.



Step 6: Choose transitions

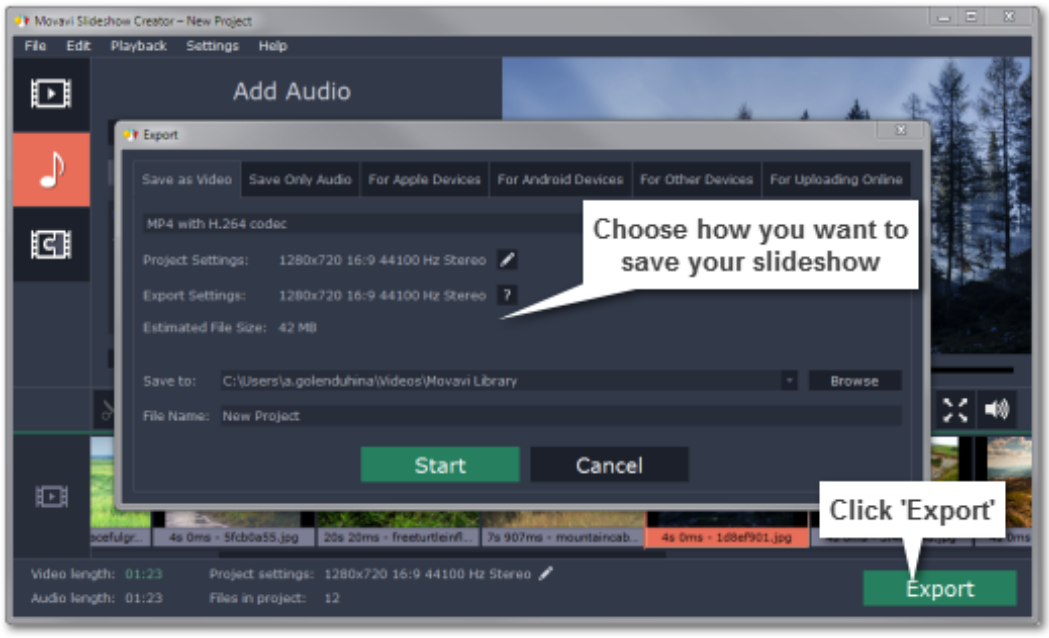
Switch to the **Transitions** tab, where you can choose animations to smoothly join the slides.

Select the transitions you like from the list – click on a transition to preview it in the player, and <TODO>: insert variable value hereclick to select multiple transitions. Then, set the duration for each transition, and click **Apply** to accept the changes and add the transitions to your slideshow.

Step 7: Export your slideshow

Make sure to save your work once in a while: choose Save from the **File** menu to save the slideshow project so that you can access it later.

When you're done with the slideshow, click the **Export** button to open the exporting options. In the **Export** window, choose a format you want to save the video in, and name your slideshow. Finally, click **Start** to begin processing the video. Your slideshow will be ready in a few minutes.



Installing Slideshow Creator

Installing Slideshow Creator

1. Click the button on the right to download the Movavi Slideshow Creator installation package from the official Movavi website.

Download for Free

2. Run the downloaded file and provide administrator permissions for installing the file. Then, follow the on-screen instructions to install the software.

3. When installation has finished, the Movavi Photo Studio launcher will automatically download and install Movavi Slideshow Creator.

Installing the complete Photo Studio

With Movavi Photo Studio, you can have three photo editing tools in one! In addition to batch photo processing, you get individual photo editing, erasing unwanted objects from photos and cutting out backgrounds, creating entertaining slideshows complete with transitions and background music!

1. Click the button on the right to download the Movavi Photo Studio installation package from the official Movavi website.

Download Studio

2. Run the downloaded file and provide administrator permissions for installing the file. Then, follow the on-screen instructions to install the software.

3. When installation has finished, the Movavi Photo Studio launcher will automatically download and install all of the photo editing modules.

Installing other modules

If you already have Movavi Photo Studio, you can easily install additional photo processing modules from the launcher application. Simply click **Try** next to the module you want to download, and it will be ready in a couple of minutes.

Updating Slideshow Creator

Movavi Photo Studio will notify you whenever an update is available. Click **Free update available** next to the application you want to update and it will be downloaded and installed automatically.

Trial and Activation

When you first install a copy of Movavi Software, it will be running in **LIMITED TRIAL MODE**. Trial Mode allows you to try all of the features of the full version before you decide to buy it.

What's the difference between trial mode and the full version?

Trial mode allows you to try all of the features of Movavi Slideshow Creator, however, several restrictions apply:

TRIAL VERSION	FULL VERSION
✕ A watermark is applied to all exported slideshows. After you activate Slideshow Creator, however, you can re-save the slideshows without the watermark.	✓ No watermark, no distractions!
✕ The trial expires after 7 days	✓ Lifetime license
	✓ Free updates and tech support
	✓ Discounts on other Movavi products and upgrades

After your trial expires, you will be asked to buy the full version or enter your activation key.

How do I switch to the full version?

To upgrade to the full version, you will need to purchase the program – you can buy it either from the official Movavi website or from our partners. After your purchase has been verified, you will receive the activation key via e-mail. Enter this key into Slideshow Creator or Movavi Photo Studio and enjoy!
Learn more about how to get an activation key

Buy Now

I already have an activation key, how do I use it?

Don't worry, we have prepared detailed instructions on how you can activate your copy of Movavi Slideshow Creator:
Activating Slideshow Creator
Activation without Internet access

If you have any other questions or you find that activation is not working as expected, please don't hesitate to contact our support team.

How can I unlock other modules?

If you decide to buy all Movavi Photo Studio modules, use the **Buy all-in-one** button in the Movavi Photo Studio launcher. After your purchase is complete, you will receive an e-mail with three activation keys. Use each key to activate the corresponding module and enjoy!

Getting an Activation Key

You can purchase an activation key from the official Movavi website or from any of our partners. To purchase a digital copy from the official website, follow the steps below:

Step 1: Go to the purchase page

Do any of the following:

- Open the **Help** menu in Movavi Slideshow Creator and select **Buy Activation Key**
- In the Movavi Photo Studio launcher, click **Buy** next to Movavi Slideshow Creator
- Or simply click the button below to be taken straight to the purchase page:

Step 2: Choose a license type

- If you want to purchase the program for yourself, or otherwise for personal use, click the **Buy Now** button on the purchase page.
- If you want to purchase the program for your business or government organization, or intend to use Movavi Slideshow Creator commercially, that is, to obtain profit of any kind, you need to select a **business license**. In that case, scroll to the bottom of the page and click the link in the **Business Use** section

Depending on your country and available payment methods, you may be taken to an external billing web-site to complete your purchase. Don't worry, the process is completely safe and secure.

Step 3: Fill in your payment information

1. Choose a payment method. We offer a variety of payment methods, but please note that some payment methods may not be available in all countries.
2. Fill in the required information.
3. Enter a valid e-mail address.
4. Complete the other steps required by your chosen payment method.

Your activation key will be delivered to this e-mail address, so make sure you have entered it correctly.

Step 3: Receive your key

After you've completed your payment and your request has been processed, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with your **activation key**, which you can use to activate **Movavi Slideshow Creator**.

Activating Movavi Slideshow Creator
Activating without an Internet connection

If you haven't received your activation key:

- Check the "*Spam"* folder of your mailbox
- Contact support

Online Activation

Activating your copy of Movavi Slideshow Creator allows you to use the program forever and process unlimited photos. This guide will show you how to activate Movavi Slideshow Creator using the quick **online activation** method if your computer is connected to the Internet. If your computer does not have a stable Internet connection, or you are having trouble with online activation, please see the Offline Activation section.

You will need:

- An activation key for Movavi Slideshow Creator
- A stable Internet connection

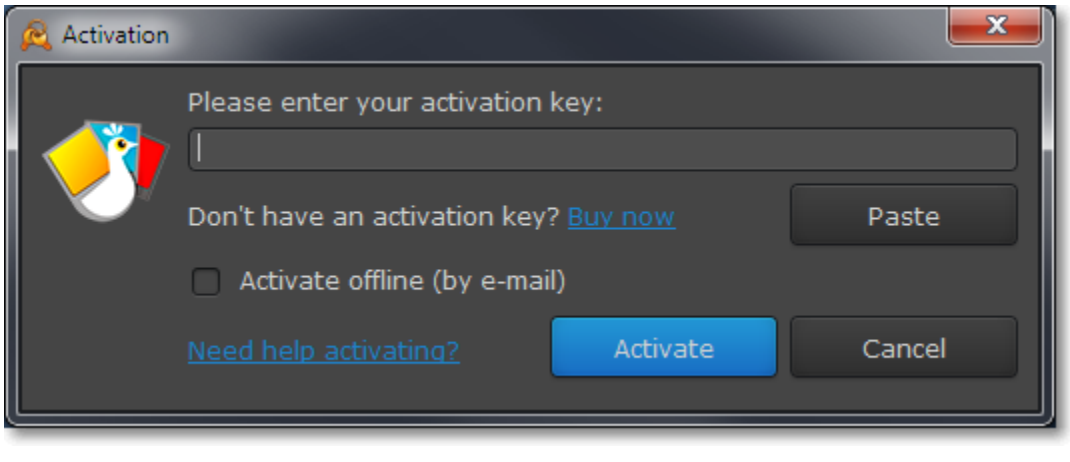
I don't have an activation key
Buy activation key
Instructions on purchasing Movavi Slideshow Creator

My computer doesn't have an Internet connection
Click here for activation instructions if your computer is not connected to the Internet.

Step 1: Open the activation window

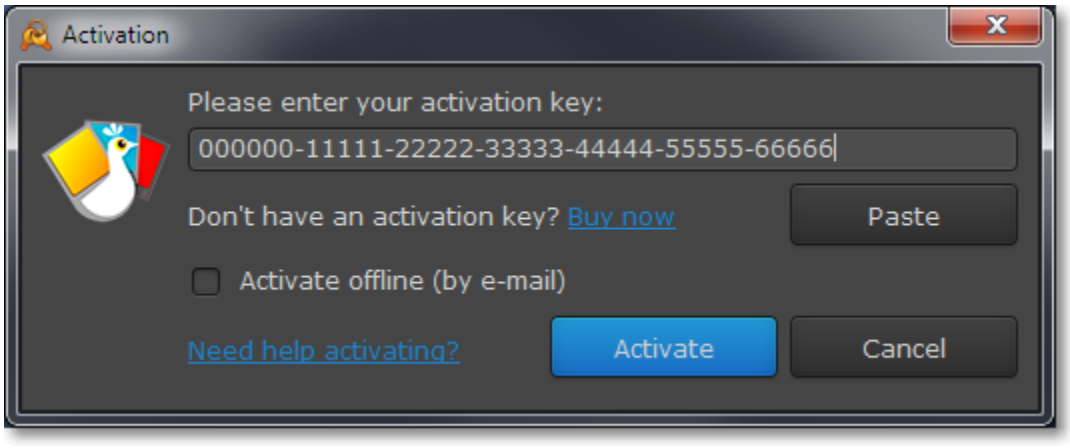
There are two ways to open the activation wizard for Movavi Slideshow Creator.

- Open the Movavi Photo Studio launcher and click **Activate** next to Movavi Slideshow Creator.
- Launch Movavi Slideshow Creator, then open the **Help** menu and choose **Activate Software**.



Step 2: Enter your activation key

1. Enter or paste your activation key into the corresponding box of the Activation window.
2. Click Activate to verify your activation key.



If you have entered the key correctly, you should see a message confirming successful activation. Click **OK** to complete the activation process and restart the program. If you have purchased other Movavi Photo Studio modules, repeat the same process to activate them.

If online activation fails, try the following:

- Check that the activation key is entered correctly and is intended for the module you are activating.
- Make sure you have administrator rights on your computer.
- Try disabling your computer's firewall and antivirus software.
- Try offline activation.

If you have any questions or problems while activating your Movavi software, please don't hesitate to contact our support team.

Offline Activation

This topic explains how to activate Movavi Slideshow Creator if you do not have a stable Internet connection or if the online activation method did not work. You will be asked to send an automatically generated e-mail to our activation server and then enter its reply into the program you purchased. Although Internet access is required for sending e-mails, you can complete this part of the activation process using any other computer that has an Internet connection.

You will need:

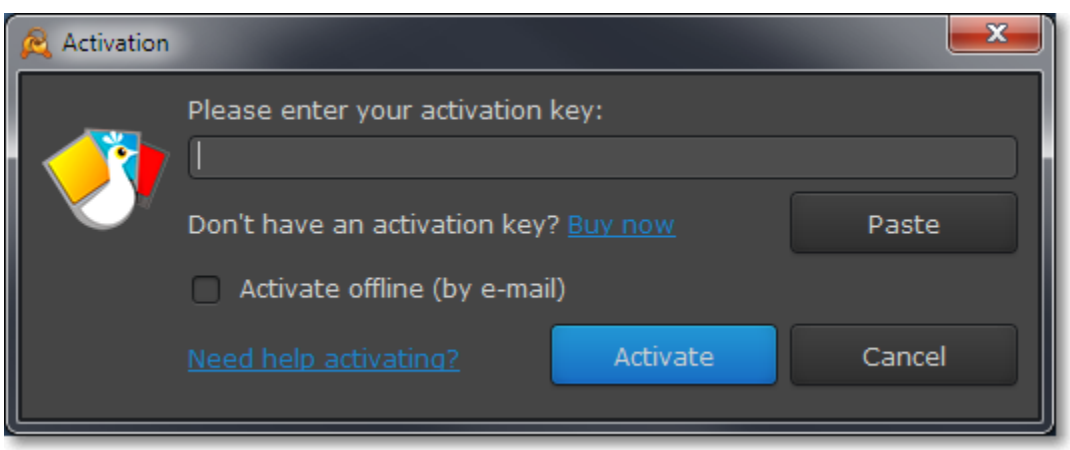
- Your activation key for Movavi Slideshow Creator
- Another device or computer that can be used to send and receive e-mail

I don't have an activation key
Buy activation key
Instructions on purchasing Movavi Slideshow Creator

Step 1: Open the activation window

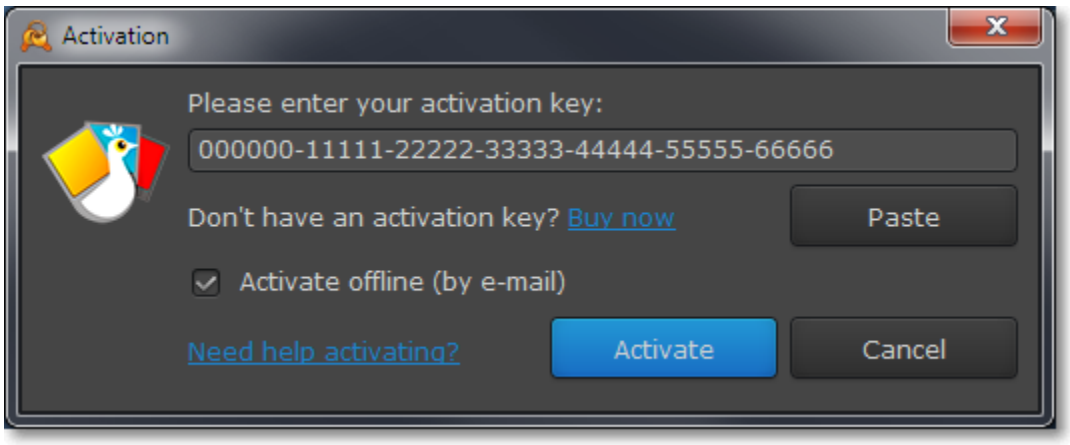
There are two ways to open the activation window for Movavi Slideshow Creator.

- Open the Movavi Photo Studio launcher and click **Activate** next to Movavi Slideshow Creator.
- Launch Movavi Slideshow Creator, then click the **Help** button and choose **Activate Software**.



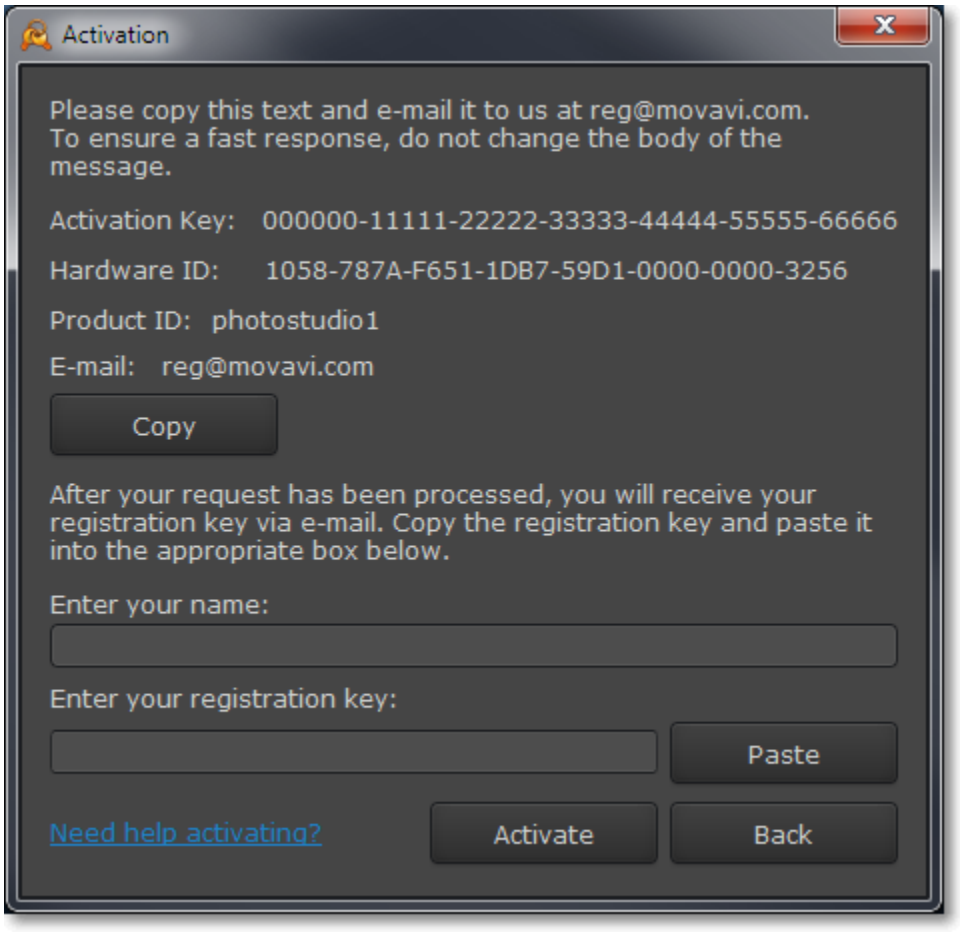
Step 2: Enter Your Activation Key

1. Enter or paste your activation key into the corresponding field.
2. Select the **Activate offline** option.
3. Click **Activate** to proceed to the next step.

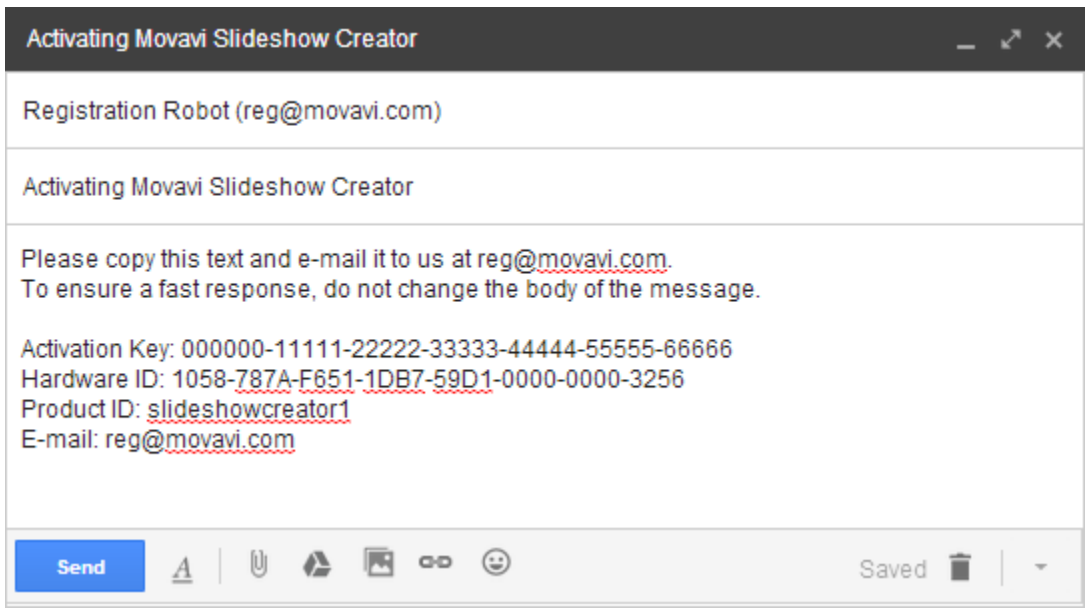


Step 3: Send an e-mail with the provided information

The next window contains important activation information that you will need to send us via e-mail in order to activate your program.



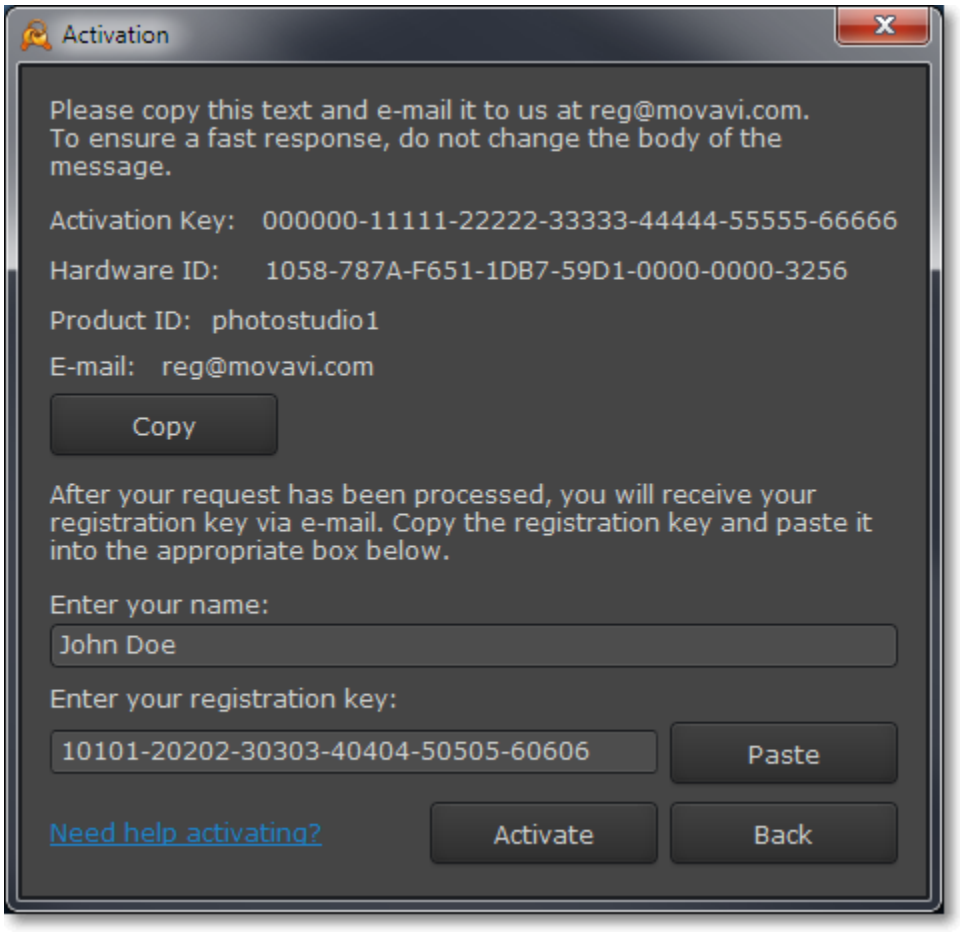
1. Click the **Copy** button to copy the information in the window. If necessary, save or transfer this information to the computer or device that you will be sending the e-mail from.
2. On the computer with an Internet connection, open your mail client and compose a new e-mail. Paste the information you've copied earlier into the message body and send this e-mail to reg@movavi.com. The activation server will then verify your activation key and send you an automatic response containing a **registration key**, which you will need to enter into the **Activation** window. You should receive the server's reply within an hour.



To ensure a quick reply from our activation server, please do not alter the message subject or body

Step 4: Enter Your Registration Key

1. When you have received your registration key, return to the Activation window and enter it into the corresponding box.
2. Enter your registration name into the corresponding box.
3. Click **Activate** to submit the information.

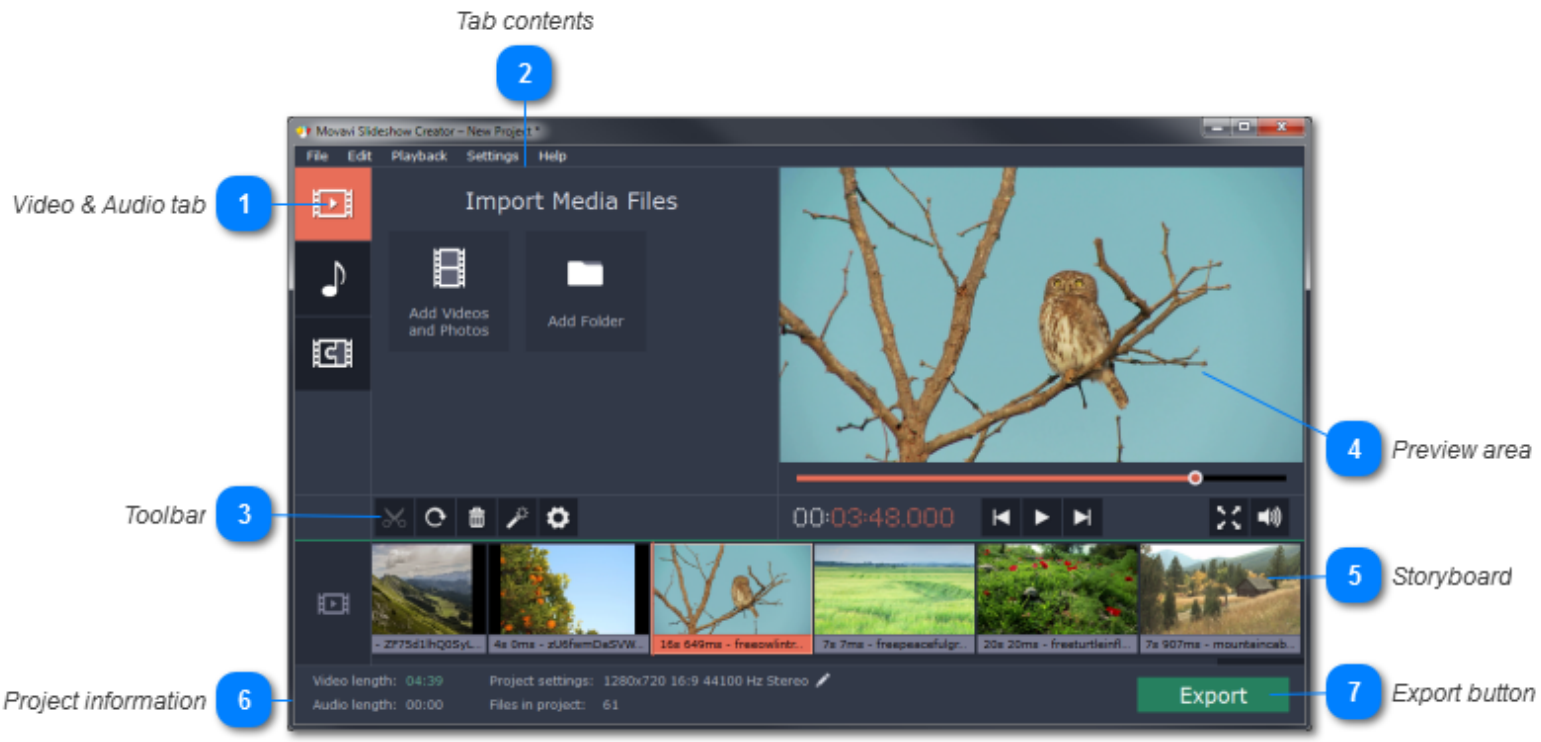


Once activation is complete, you may be asked to restart the application. If you have entered the key correctly, you should see a message confirming successful activation. Click **OK** to complete the activation process and restart the program. If you have purchased other Movavi Photo Studio modules, repeat the same process to activate them.

If online activation fails:

- Make sure you have entered the activation key and the registration key correctly and try again
- Each Movavi Photo Studio module has its own activation key. Check that you are activating the right application.
- Make sure you have administrator rights on your computer
- Contact our support team

User Interface



These are the main user interface elements of Movavi Slideshow Creator. Click on a number or a part of the image to find out more about it.

1 Video & Audio tab

The key video editing tasks in Movavi Slideshow Creator are sorted into tabs. Simply click the tab's icon to switch between adding media files, managing background audio, and choosing transitions.

The **Video & Photo** tab allows you to add videos and photos to your project. Learn more about adding media.

The **Audio** tab allows you to add background music and voiceovers. Learn more about adding audio.

The Transitions tab allows you to choose various transition styles to connect clips in the video. Learn more about using transitions.

2 Tab contents

The tabs contain various options sorted into categories, such as adding media files, setting up sound, and adding transitions.

3 Toolbar

You can use the tools on the toolbar to edit or delete the currently selected clips.

Split the clip at the current position

Delete the selected clips from the project

Rotate the selected clips clockwise

Apply Magic Enhance to the selected clips.

Open the **clip's properties**, where you can change the speed and volume for videos, set the length of appearance for image slides, and appl various enhancements.

4 Preview area

You can use the preview area to preview your video project and to jump to different parts of the timeline with the progress marker. The progress marker in the preview area reflects the position relative to the entire length of the project.

5 Storyboard

The Storyboard contains all the video and image clips used in your project. To reorder clips, simply drag their thumbnails with your mouse.

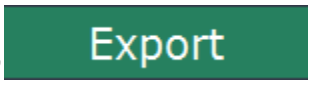
6 Project information

The bottom panel of the editor contains basic information about your project, including video and audio length, project settings, and the number of files used in the project.
More about project settings

7

Export button

When you've finished with your movie project, click the **Export** button to proceed to saving your movie as a media file, allowing you to play it back in media players, on mobiles devices, and upload online.



Learn more about exporting your movie

Projects

All work on creating and editing videos is done in a *project*. A project stores all information about the files used in your project, the order of videos on the storyboard, and any other changes you have made while editing the video.

***.mep2 Project files**

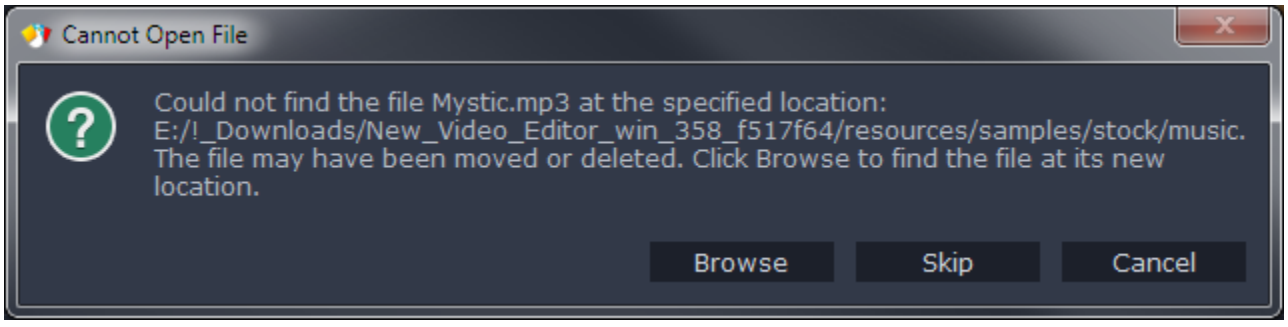
Movavi Slideshow Creator projects are saved with the *.mep2 extension. By default, the project files are stored in the *\Videos\Movavi Slideshow Creator \Projects* folder of your user, but you can change the default folder in the Preferences.

Please note that the *.mep2 Project files can only be opened in Movavi Slideshow Creator. If you want to be able to play the file in a media player or mobile device, you will need to export the file into one of the available media formats.
Learn more about exporting videos

Media Usage

Movavi Slideshow Creator is a non-destructive video editor, meaning that the original files you add to the project will remain unchanged as you edit the slideshow: all the changes, including splitting and enhancements, are stored within the project file, and you do not need to create backup copies of your files.

In order to save your disc space, Movavi Slideshow Creator projects do not contain copies of your original files, but only store references to the files' location. This is especially important when working with large movies, however, in the event that you move or delete a file used in a project, you will be asked to specify the file's new location:



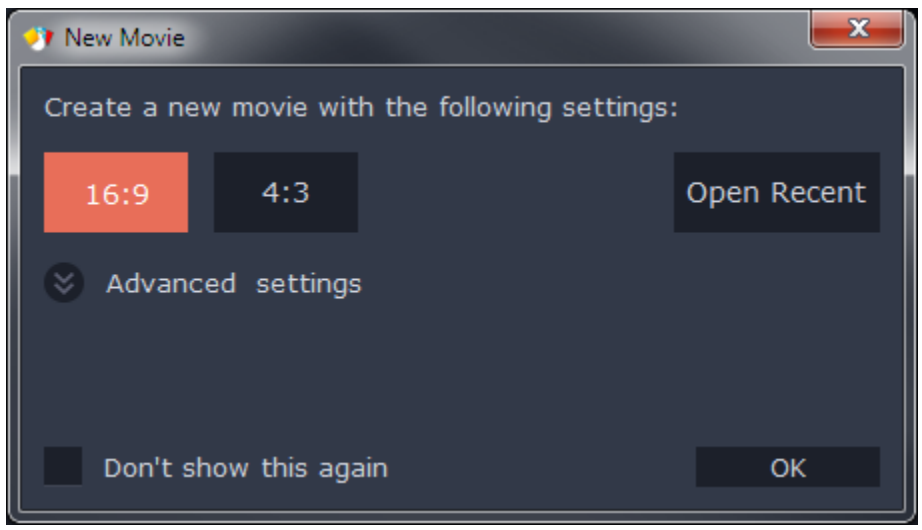
If the file was moved elsewhere, click the **Browse** button and locate the file in the Explorer window. After that, you can continue working on the project as usual: Slideshow Creator will restore the file's location on the Storyboard as well as any other changes you have made. If the file was deleted or you no longer wish to use it in the project, click **Skip** to open the project without the missing file. To cancel loading the project, click **Cancel**.

See also:

Creating a new project
Project settings
Adding media files

Creating a New Project

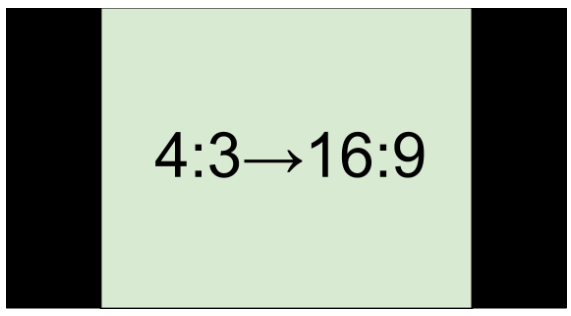
When you open Movavi Slideshow Creator, a new project will already be created for you, and you can start working on your movie right away. To create a new project, open the **File** menu and select **New Project**. When you create a new project, you will be prompted with the following dialog box* to choose how you want to set up your video project.

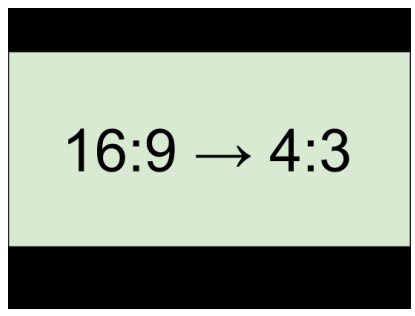


First, choose an aspect ratio for your movie by clicking either the **16:9** or the **4:3** button. The aspect ratio defines the proportions of the video frame, and is basically the ratio of the video's width to its height. Here, you can choose between two most common aspect ratios: **16:9** and **4:3**. 16:9 is the most common aspect ratio used for digital videos, especially widescreen movies, while 4:3 was the de facto standard for analog television.

A visual comparison of the two common aspect ratios

Choosing an aspect ratio for your video project will largely depend on the frame size and aspect ratio of the videos and photos you want to use in your movie. When you add videos with the same aspect ratio to your project, the videos will simply be resized to fit the entire frame without any distortions. However, if you add videos and photos with a different aspect ratio than that of the project, you may see black bars around the video because of the need to fit the video inside the frame's dimensions. Below, you can see examples of how the black bars appear on different aspect ratios.





This way, it is always best to match the aspect ratio and frame size of the project to that of your videos. However, you can choose a different method of fitting the frame inside the image under **Resize Method** in **Advanced Settings**. Don't worry about choosing the right aspect ratio right when you start your project, as you can easily change it later when you have had a chance to preview how the videos look in the selected frame size.
Learn more about project settings

* If you don't want to see this window when creating a new project or launching Movavi Slideshow Creator, you can disable it in the Preferences.

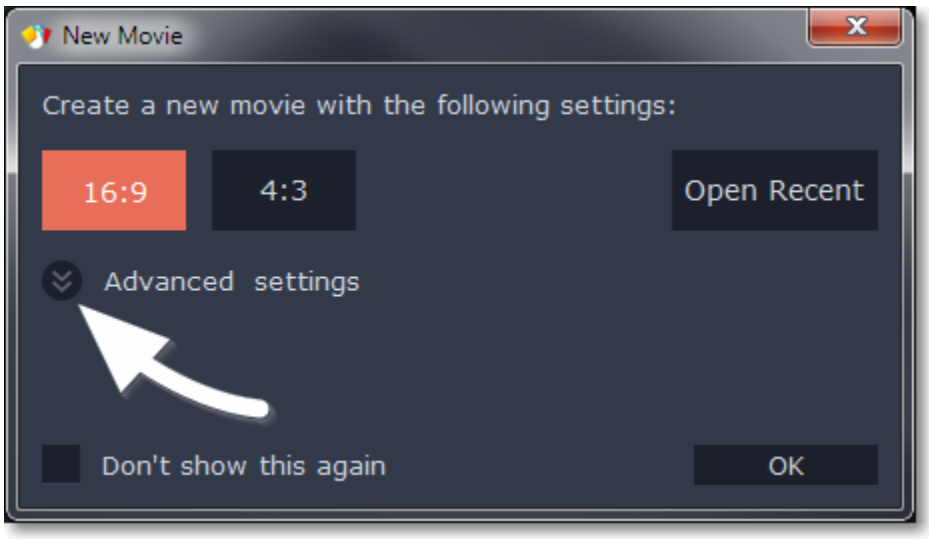
Project Settings

You can set up your project's video and audio settings both when creating the project and at any other time.

Opening Project Settings

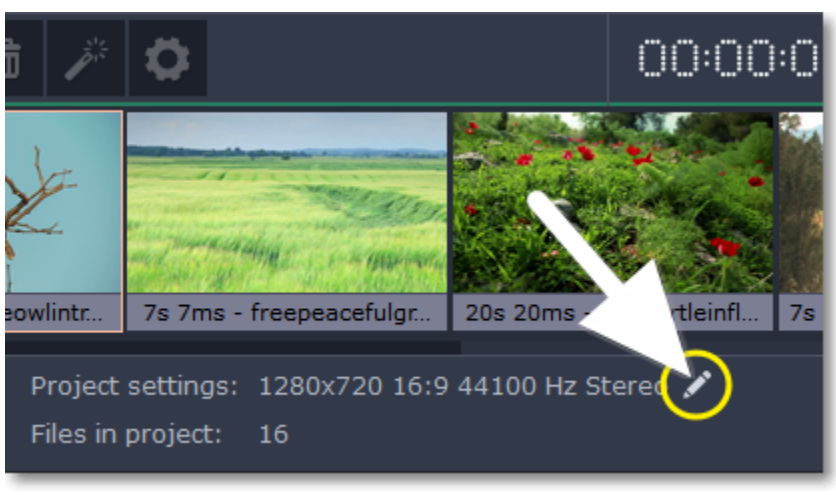
When creating a project:

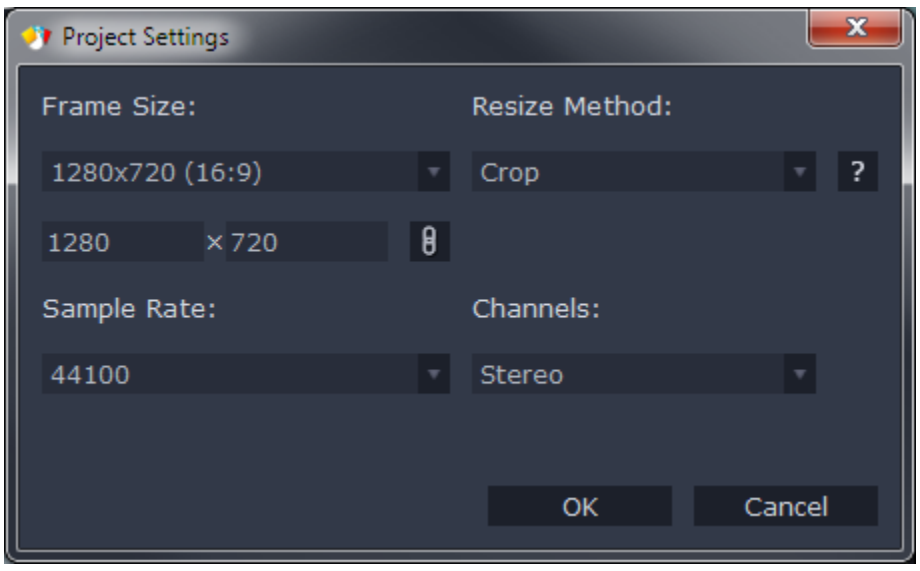
When you create a new project or launch Slideshow Creator, you will see a small window where you can choose an aspect ratio for your project. Click **Advanced Settings** to show more video and audio settings.



During editing:

- On the bottom panel of Slideshow Creator, find the pencil icon next to the information about your project.
- Open the **Edit** menu and choose **Project Settings.**
  The **Project Settings** window will open.





Video Settings

The video settings apply to all videos and photos used in the project. When you import the media files, they will be scaled to fit inside the selected frame size according to your settings.

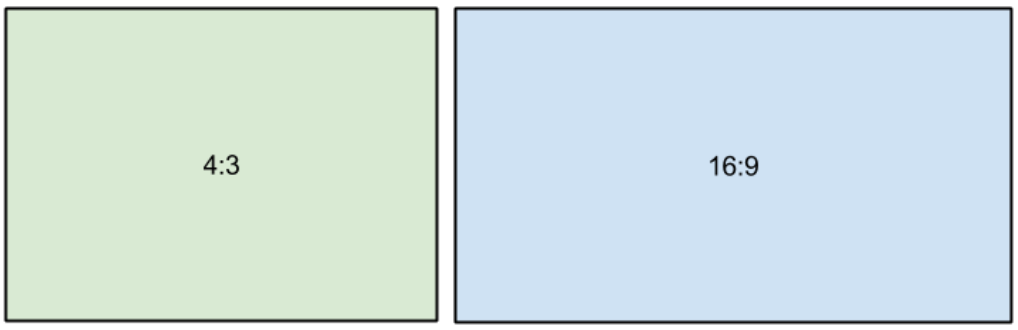
Frame size

The *frame size* or *resolution* determines the videos width and height in pixels. Open the **Frame Size** list to select from the most common resolutions. For your convenience, each resolution is marked with its respective aspect ratio. Ideally, the frame size should match the resolution of the videos and photos you plan to use in your project, and should not exceed the resolution of the largest video. Smaller resolutions allow you to make the output video smaller and thus save your disc space, however, this will sacrifice some video quality due to downscaling.

Frame Size	Aspect Ratio
320x240	4:3
640x480	4:3
1280x720	16:9
1280x960	4:3
1920x1080	16:9
1920x1440	4:3

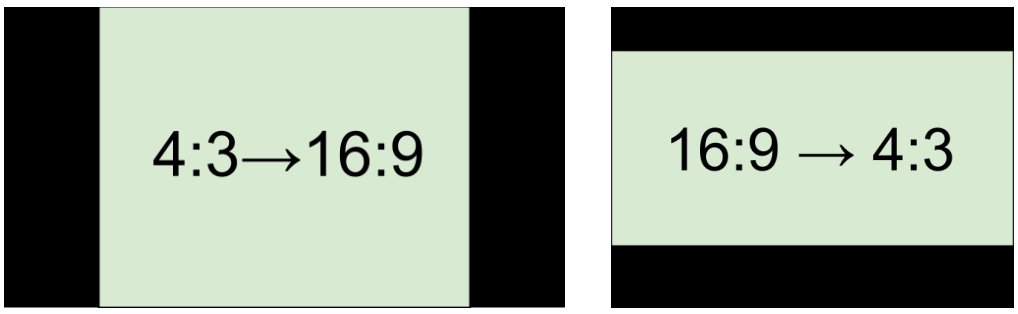
Aspect ratio

The *aspect ratio* is the ratio of the video or photo's width to its height. The most commonly used aspect ratios are 4:3, used generally for analog TV and in many old movies, and 16:9, the standard resolution for widescreen digital video.



A relative comparison of aspect ratios

When you add videos and photos to the project, they will be scaled to fit the specified frame size. If you add media files with an aspect ratio different from that of the project, you may see black bars appear on the sides of the video. Furthermore, if you add low-quality videos to a project set up to a high resolution (frame size), the small video may be stretched to fit the frame and thus may appear pixellized. For best results, we recommend setting the frame size and aspect ratio to match all or most of the videos and photos you are planning to use.



Examples of black bars appearing when importing videos with a different aspect ratio.

If you cannot find the necessary frame size in the list, you can manually enter the width and height into the respective boxes of the **Project Settings** window. Note the button with the link icon to the right of the boxes. It allows you to maintain existing proportions when entering new values: – the proportions are constrained, allowing you to set a larger or smaller frame size without changing the aspect ratio; – you can freely enter the width and height with any proportions. Simply click this button to toggle the two states.

Resize method
Choosing a resize method can help you manage how all of your videos and photos are resized to fit inside the frame size you've set. This is especially important when the aspect ratio of some videos and photos does not match the aspect ratio of the project and you need to get rid of the black bars. There are three resizing options available:

Letterbox – the video will be resized to fit inside the frame entirely. This method allows you to keep the whole video inside the frame without distortions, but may place black bars around the video.

Stretch – the video is fit entirely inside the frame and then stretched on one axis in such a way as to fill the entire frame without leaving black bars. This allows you to cover the entire frame, however, the objects in the video may appear horizontally or vertically distorted.

Crop – the video will be resized to be slightly larger than the frame, cropping the parts that do not fit inside it. This allows to cover the entire area of the frame without distorting any of the objects inside the video or without leaving black bars, however, this may not suit some clips where important objects are near the edge of the frame.

Audio Settings

Sample rate

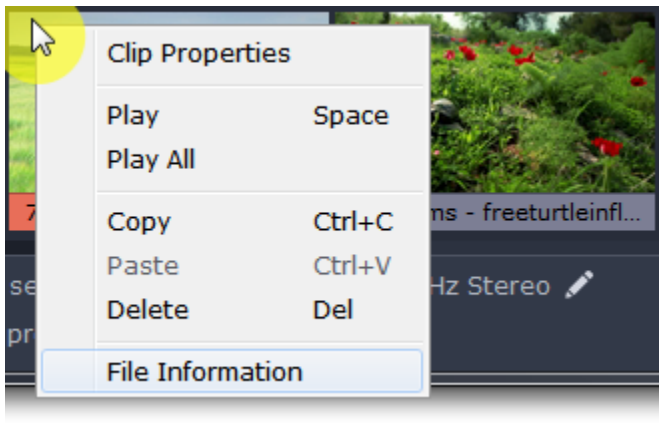
The *sample rate* affects the quality of digital sound, and defines the maximum frequencies that an audio stream can contain. The default sample rate is set to 44100 Hz, which exceeds the maximum frequencies of human hearing and is used to record Audio CDs and most music tracks.

Channels

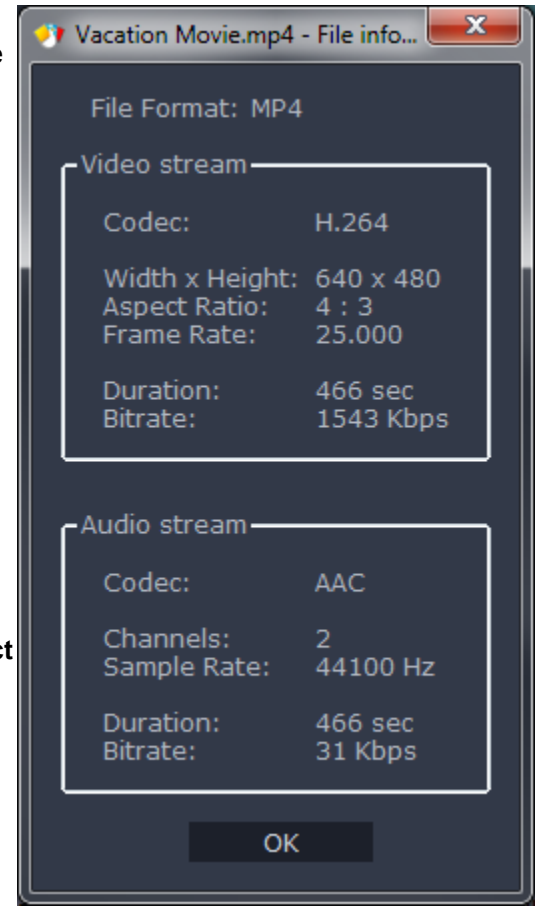
Stereo sound contains two channels and has the capacity to convey the relative location of sound sources, which makes it best for recording music; **mono** sound has only one channel and produces sound without differentiating left and right channels. Stereo is the generally preferred number of channels, however, some mobile devices record sound only in mono mode.

File properties

To open a file's properties, right-click or Ctrl+click it on the storyboard and choose **File Information** from the context menu. Knowing certain information about a clip will allow you to better understand which settings are best for your videos.



A small **File Information** window will appear. Here, you can find out the video or image's **resolution**, **aspect ratio**, and other properties.



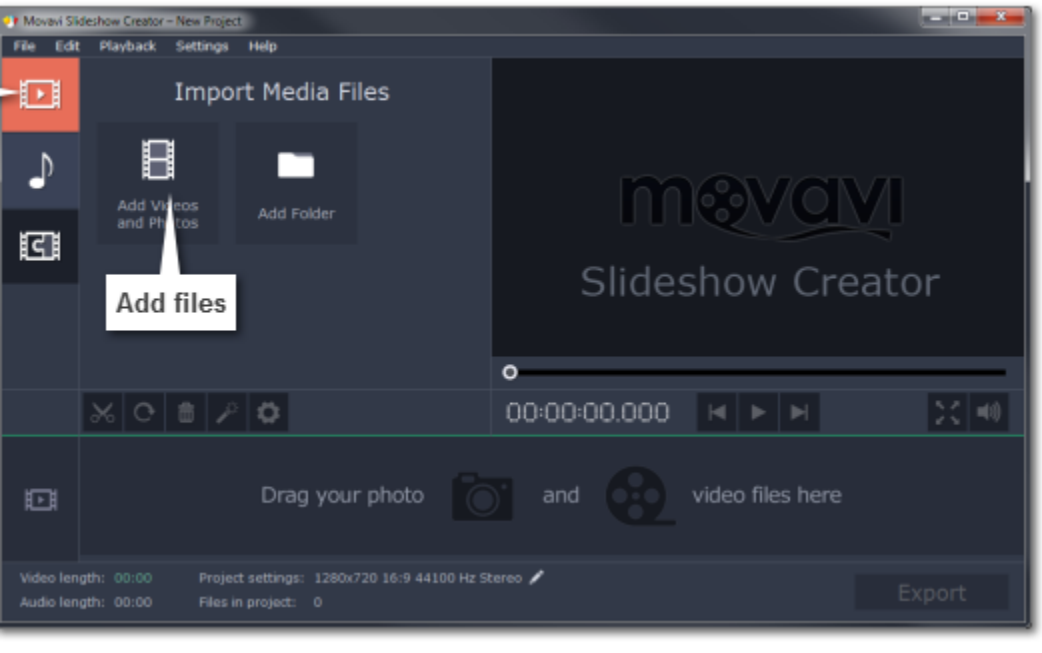
Adding Media Files

To begin working on your video project, you will first need to add some media files to the Slideshow Creator.

1. Open the **Video & Photo** tab. If you have just launched Slideshow Creator, the tab is already opened for you.

2. Click **Add Videos and Photos** to add one or more media files from a single folder, or click **Add Folder** to add all the contents of one or more folders.

The files will then be added onto the **Storyboard** in the same order as you added them, and in the same order as they appeared in the Explorer window. After that, you can simply drag-and-drop the files on the Storyboard to reorder them.



Also, you can drag-and-drop media files onto the Storyboard straight from any Explorer window. For adding audio files, please see the Adding Background Audio section.

Splitting Video

Using Slideshow Creator, you can easily split videos into parts and cut out fragments with the **Split** tool. You can find it on the toolbar of the main window, marked with a scissors icon:

Splitting video into parts:

1. Place the position marker at the point where you want to divide the clips.

2. Click the **Split** button to divide the selected clip into two clips at the specified time.

If you want to cut the video into more clips, simply repeat the above steps as many times as you need.

Cutting out fragments:

1. Place the position marker onto the beginning of the fragment that you want to cut out. If the fragment is at the beginning of a clip, skip to Step **3**.

2. Click the **Split** button to divide the clips at the specified time.

3. Place the position marker onto the end of the fragment you wish to remove. If the fragment is located at the very end of a clip, skip to step 5.

4. Click the **Split** button again to divide the clips. Now, the fragment is located in a separate clip.

5. Select the clip with the fragment and press the **Delete** key, or right-click the clip and choose **Delete** from the context menu. The fragment will be removed from your project.

For more precise navigation:

- To jump to the beginning of a specific clip, click its thumbnail on the Storyboard.
- Open the **Playback** menu and use the **Skip Forward by 0.5 Seconds** or **Skip Backward by 0.5 Seconds** commands to jump half a second forward or back.
- Use the keyboard shortcuts to move the position marker half a second back and half a second forward, respectively: Shift+Ctrl+Left and Shift+Ctrl +Right.
- Use the Previous Frame and Next Frame buttons for precise frame-by-frame navigation. You can also use the Ctrl+Left and Ctrl+Right keyboard shortcuts.

Please note that the position marker in the player reflects the position relative to the entire length of the project.

Rotating Images

In just a few clicks, you can turn any vertically-shot photo or video around without having to crane your neck!

1. Click on a clip's thumbnail on the Storyboard to select the clip.

2. Click the **Rotate** icon on the toolbar to rotate the clip. Each time you click the **Rotate** button, the image will be rotated **90 degrees** clockwise. To cancel rotation, simply keep rotating the clip until it returns to its original orientation.

You can also rotate several clips at once. To do that, simply **Ctrl+click** or **Shift+click** to select multiple clips. When you click the **Rotate** button, all the selected clips will be rotated in the same way.

Magic Enhance

The Magic Enhance function allows you to instantly enhance your photos and videos. Movavi Slideshow Creator will automatically set the saturation and contrast levels. You can apply **Magic Enhance** both from the toolbar in the main window, or from **Clip Properties**:

From the toolbar:

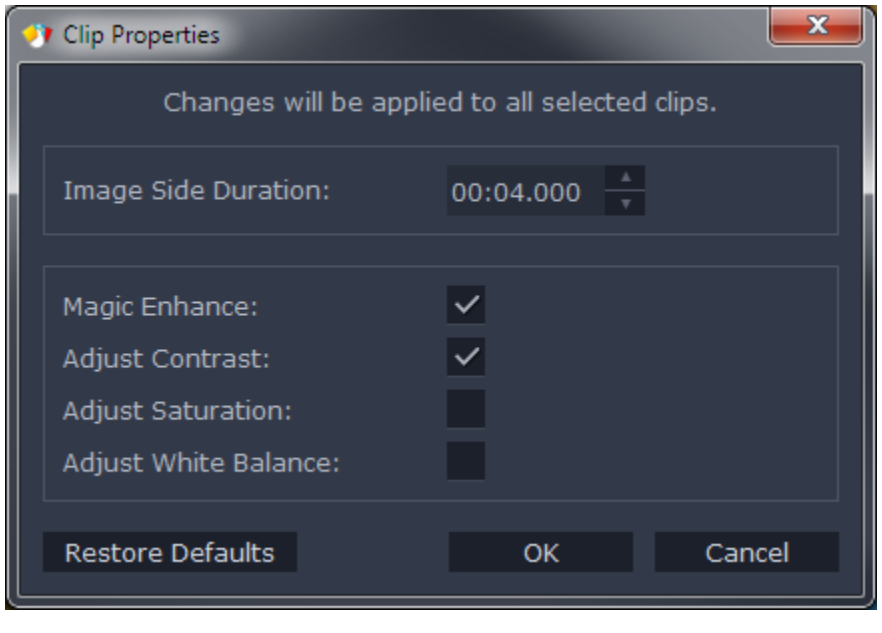
1. Select the clips you want to enhance on the Storyboard. Use Ctrl+click and Shift+click to select multiple clips.

2. On the toolbar, click the magic wand button to apply **Magic Enhance** to the selected clips. The videos and photos will be instantly improved. To disable **Magic Enhance**, simply click the magic wand button again.

From Clip Properties:

1. On the Storyboard, select the clips you wish to enhance. Use Ctrl+click and Shift+click to select multiple clips.

2. Click the cogwheel button on the toolbar to open the **Clip Properties** window for the selected clips.



3. Here, you can choose to apply the **Magic Enhance** effect, as well as choose additional contrast, saturation, and white balance enhancements:

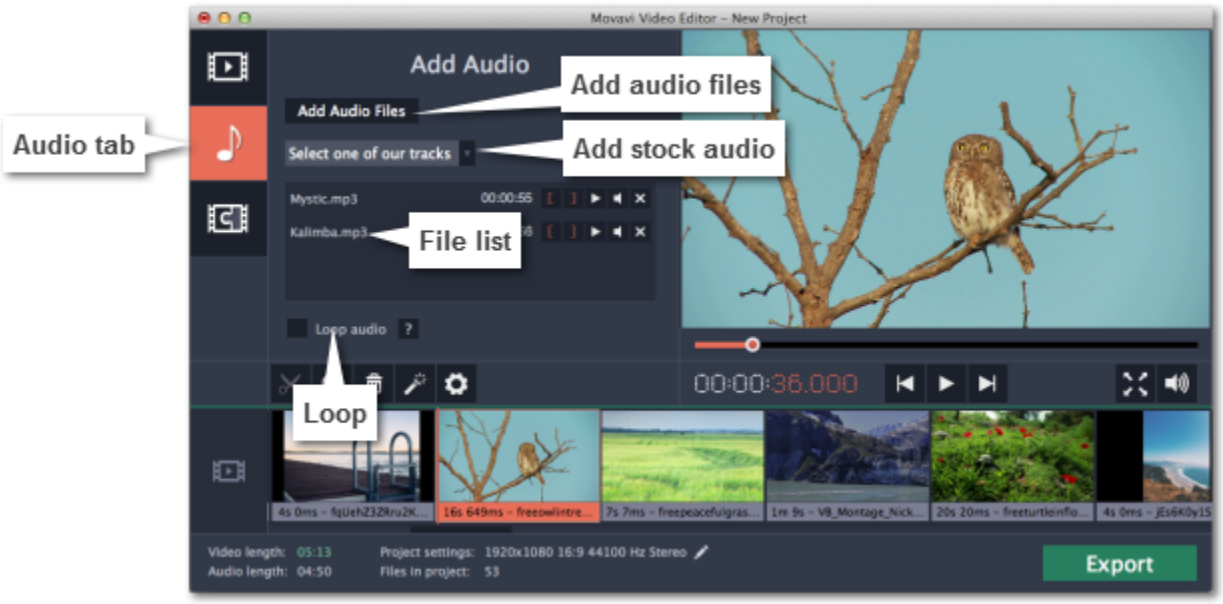
- Magic Enhance
- Adjust Contrast
- Adjust Saturation
- Adjust White Balance

Simply select the options you need and click **OK** to apply the changes.

Once you have applied the Magic Enhance effect or any of the three enhancements, the enhanced clips will be marked with a star icon, denoting applied effects:

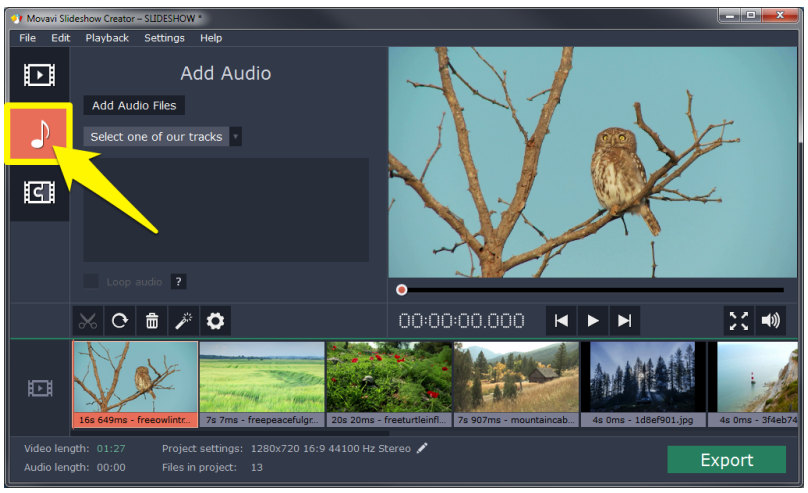
Adding Background Audio

The **Audio** tab allows you to add background audio tracks to your project.



Step 1: Switch to the Audio Tab

On the left-hand side of the Slideshow Creator window, click the note button to switch to the **Audio** tab.



Step 2: Add Audio Tracks

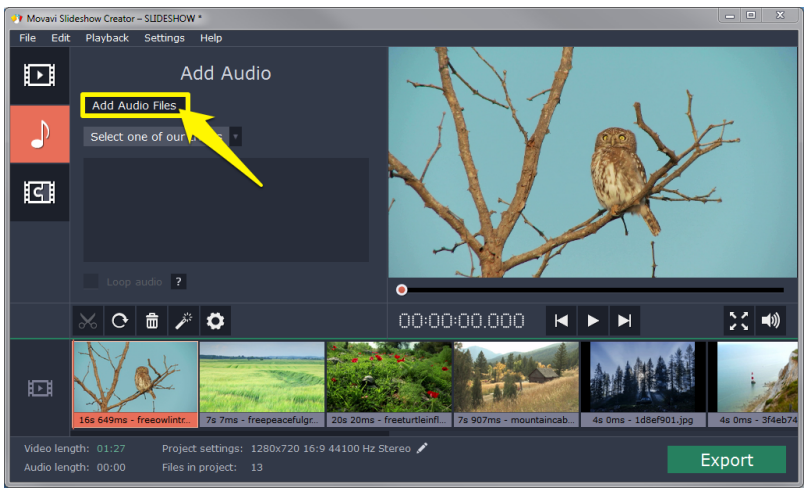
You can both add your own audio tracks from audio files, or use one of the stock audio themes.

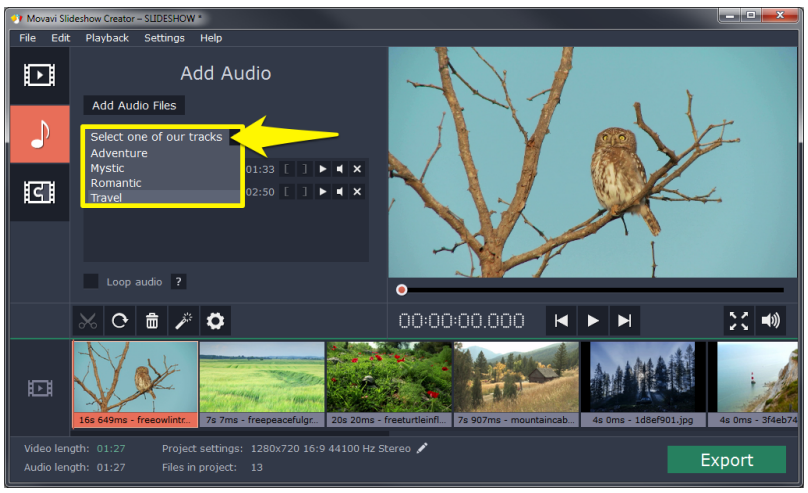
Add Music From File

1. On the **Audio** tab, click **Add Audio Files**
2. Choose the audio files in the Explorer dialog box.

Use Stock Music[1]

1. Click the 'Select one of your tracks' list to open it.
2. Choose a musical theme from the list.





The tracks will now be listed in the **Audio** tab. Here, you can play back and manage the tracks.

Play – allows you to play back the audio file. When you click the **Play** button, a progress bar will appear beside the file. Click the **Stop** button to stop playback.

Volume – allows you to change this track's volume in the project, and how loud the track will be in the output file.

Delete – removes this track from the project

Step 3: Trim or Loop Audio

Most likely, the added tracks will not be of exactly the same length as the video project.

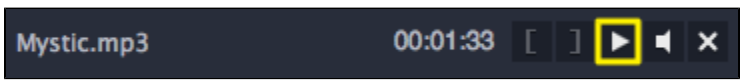
Looping Audio

By default, if the background music is shorter than the video, there will be silence until the end of the video. To repeat the audio tracks from the beginning, select the **Loop audio** option. The audio tracks will then play in succession until the end of the video.

Trimming Audio

If the audio is longer than video, the background music is automatically cut off at the end of the video, but you can also trim each individual track from the beginning or from the end.

1. Click **Play** for the song you want to trim. The song will start playing from the beginning.



2. When the progress marker is at the moment where you want the song to begin, click the **left bracket** button to trim the song from the beginning.

3. When the progress marker is at the moment where you want the song to end, click the **right bracket** button to trim the song from the end.

Trimmed songs will be marked with a highlighted bracket icon, and the trimmed parts will be skipped when playing back the video. To cancel trimming for a song, click the **Play** button and click the brackets again to disable them.

Step 4: Mix Volume Levels

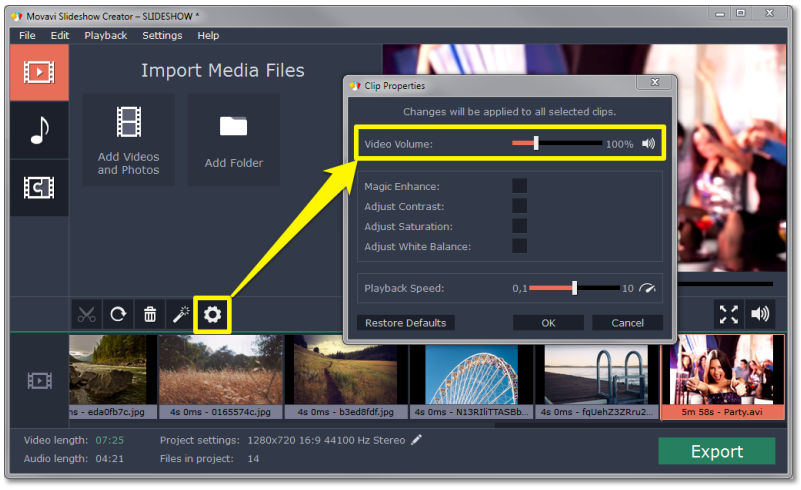
You can change both the volume of the background audio, and the volume of individual video clips.

Changing Music Volume

1. On the Audio tab, click the volume icon next to the track you want to edit.
2. A volume slider will pop up: drag the slider to the necessary level and then click anywhere else to hide the slider.

Changing Video Volume

1. Select the video you want to edit.
2. Click the **Clip Properties** button to open the settings for this clip.
3. In the **Clip Properties** window, drag the **Video Volume** slider to the necessary level.
4. Click **OK** to close the window and accept the changes.



You're done! Now your video or slideshow has some great music.

---

[1] Stock Audio Tracks:

Stock audio tracks are copyright of their respective owners and are free for both personal and commercial use with credit attribution under the Creative Commons license.

Adventure
"Coulda Shoulda Buddha" by UncleBibby
Available on the Free Music Archive (freemusicarchive.org) Under CC BY license

Mystic
"Lunar Dunes" by Spinning Clocks
Available on the Free Music Archive (freemusicarchive.org) Under CC BY license

Romantic
"The Wrong Way" by Jahzzar
Available on the Free Music Archive (freemusicarchive.org) Under CC BY-SA license

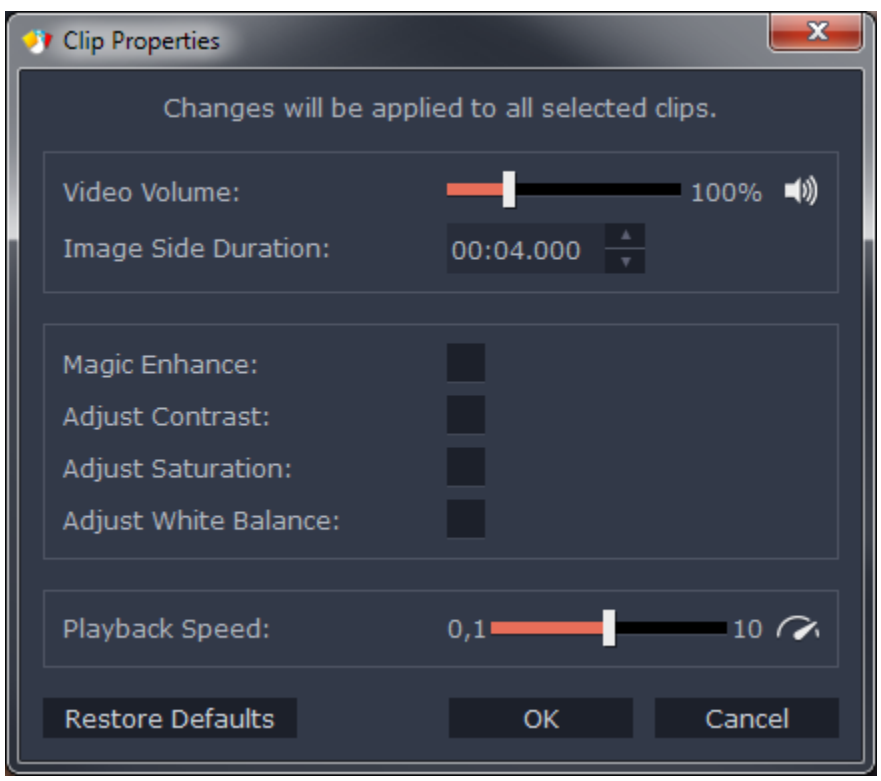
Travel
"Nobody Here But Us Charles Dickens" by UncleBibby
Available on the Free Music Archive (freemusicarchive.org) Under CC BY license

Video Speed

Here you can learn how to set video playback speed for one or several video clips. For smoother playback, we recommend using video clips with 40 frames per second (FPS) and above. If you want to make your slideshow's slides change faster, use the Image Slide

1. Select the necessary clip on the Storyboard. If you want to set the same speed for a few video clips, simply select them all at once.

2. On the toolbar, click the **Clip Properties** button. This will open the following window:



3. In the **Clip Properties** window, set the Playback Speed slider to the necessary level, where **1** is the original speed. Moving the slider **left** will slow down the video, while moving it **right** will speed it up. When you're done, click **OK** to apply the changes and close the window.

The selected clips will now be marked with a speed icon:

If you need to reset the clips' speed to the original, simply select the necessary clips, open the **Clip Properties** window, and return the **Playback speed** slider back to **1.0**.

Volume Levels

This instruction will guide you through the different ways of controlling your project's audio levels.

Background audio volume

To change the volume for audio tracks that you've added as background music in the **Audio** tab:

1. Switch to the **Audio** tab by clicking the note icon in the Editor.

2. In the list of added audio tracks, find the file that you want to change the volume for. Then, click the small speakers icon to display the audio level.

3. Set the necessary audio level for that file. You'll need to do this for each file individually. This volume level will affect how loud the background audio tracks will appear in the output video when you export your project as a media file.
Learn more about adding background music

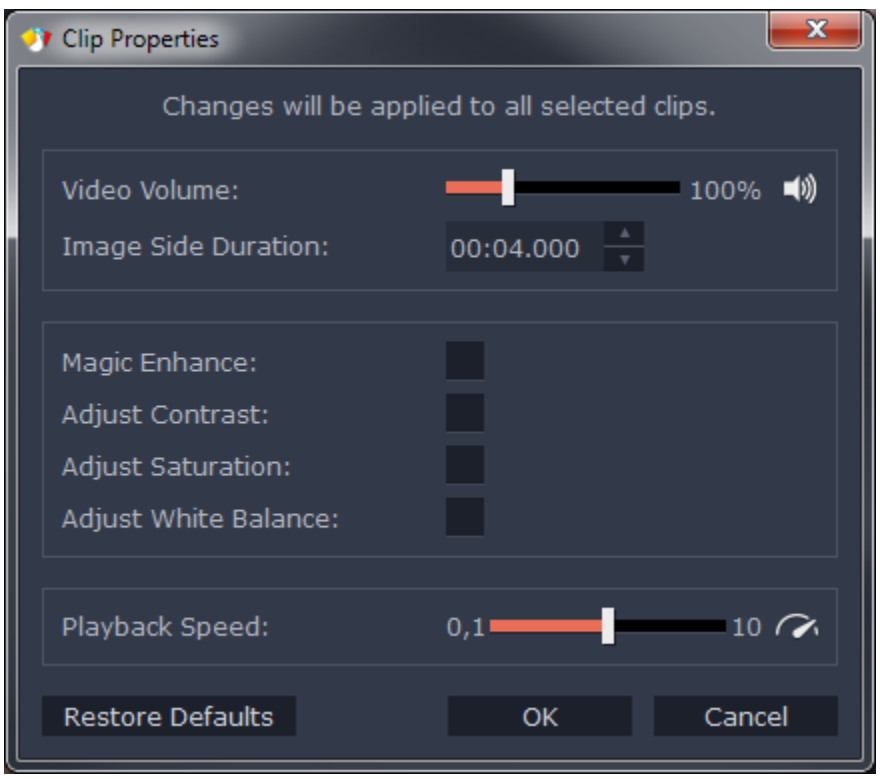
Clip volume

To change the volume of clips on the Storyboard:

1. On the Storyboard, select the clips that you want to modify the volume levels for. Selecting multiple clips will allow you to set the same audio level for all of them.

2. On the toolbar, click the **Clip Settings** button.

3. The **Clip Settings** window will open, where you can modify the selected clips. Set the **Video Volume** slider to the desired volume level in percent and click **OK** to apply the changes and close the window.



Playback volume

Only for previewing

If you need to temporarily change the volume of playback in the editor, without changing the project's volume, click the speaker icon in the preview area and set the necessary volume level. Please note that this will only affect the volume while previewing the project in Movavi Slideshow Creator, and will not affect the output file.

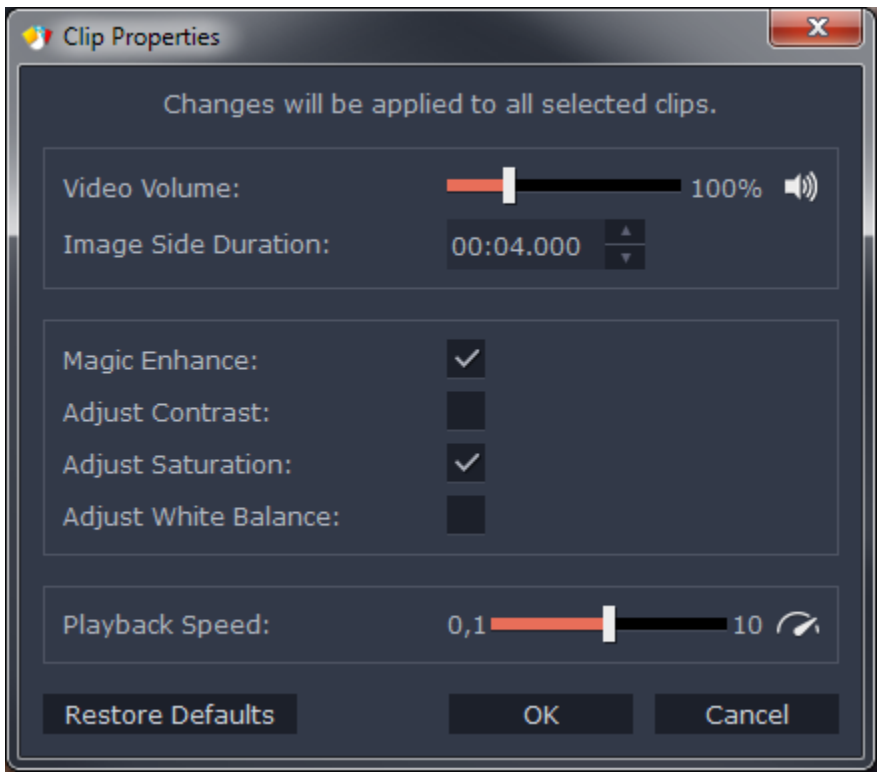
Clip Properties

The **Clip Properties** window allows you to modify the properties of one or more video or image clips. Please note that the options you will see in the **Clip Properties** window depend on the type of media you have selected. For example, if you only select image clips, then you will not see the video volume or speed clips, as they are not applicable to images, and vice versa.

To open Clip Properties:

1. On the **Storyboard**, select the clips you wish to modify. To select multiple non-consecutive clips, hold down the **Ctrl** key and click the necessary clips; to select multiple consecutive clips, click the first clip, and then, while holding down the **Shift** key, select the last clip in the sequence.

2. Without deselecting the clips, click the button with the cogwheel icon to open the **Clip Properties** window.



Properties for both videos and images

Video Volume

Allows you to make the selected clips louder or quieter. This will not affect the volume of the background audio.

Image Slide Duration:

This allows you to set how long each of the selected images will be played.

Magic Enhance:

Allows you to instantly enhance your videos and images. Slideshow Creator will automatically set the optimum contrast and saturation levels to bring out the best of your images. Also, you can amp up the enhancement by using additional **Adjust Contrast** and **Adjust Saturation** options. The **Adjust White Balance** option will help you fix bleak and off colors.

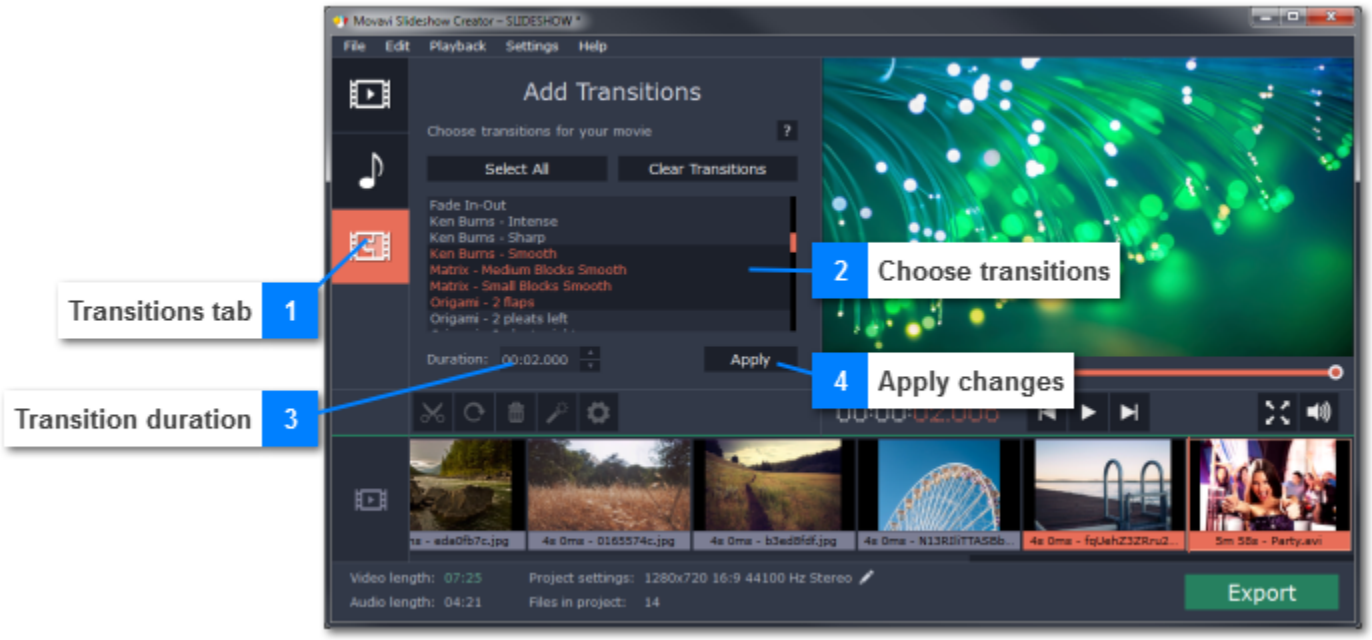
Learn more about Magic Enhance

Playback Speed:

Allows you to slow down or speed up the selected videos. Shifting the slider left will slow down the video, while shifting the slider right, above 1.0, will speed up the video. Please note that videos with low FPS (frames per second) may look choppy. We recommend using videos with 40 FPS and above if you want to slow down video playback.

Adding Transitions

Transitions are short animations that use geometric shapes and transparency to connect two clips in a creative way. Follow the steps below to add transitions to your video project.



1. Switch to the **Transitions** tab.

2. Choose the transitions you like from the list. Clicking a transition name will show its preview in the player.

- To select several consecutive transitions, click the first transition and then hold down the **Shift** key as you select the last transition in the sequence.
- To select several non-consecutive transitions, hold down the **Ctrl** key and click on each transition.
- To randomize transitions, click the **Select All** button at the top.

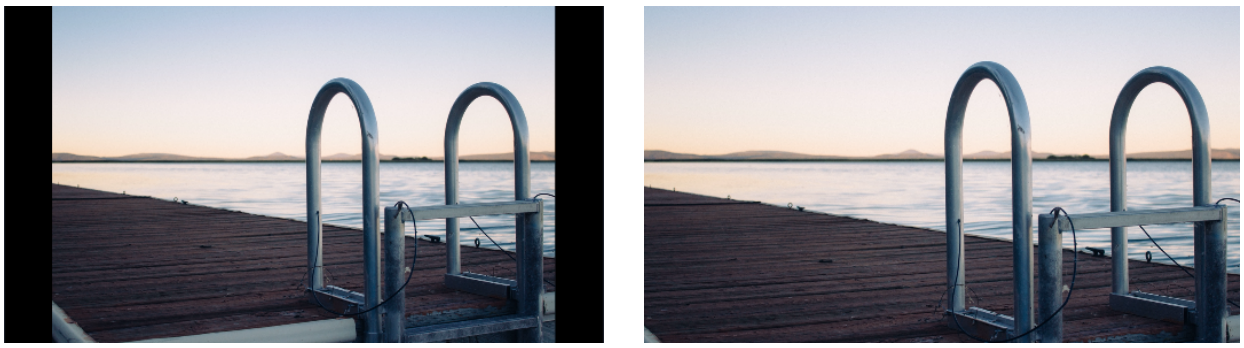
3. In the **Duration** field, enter how long you would like each transition to last. This value will be the same for all transitions.

4. Click **Apply** to accept the changes.

If you want to remove all transitions, click **Select None**. If you want to exclude a transition style from being used in your project, simply deselect it in the list and click **Apply**.

How to Get Rid of Black Bars

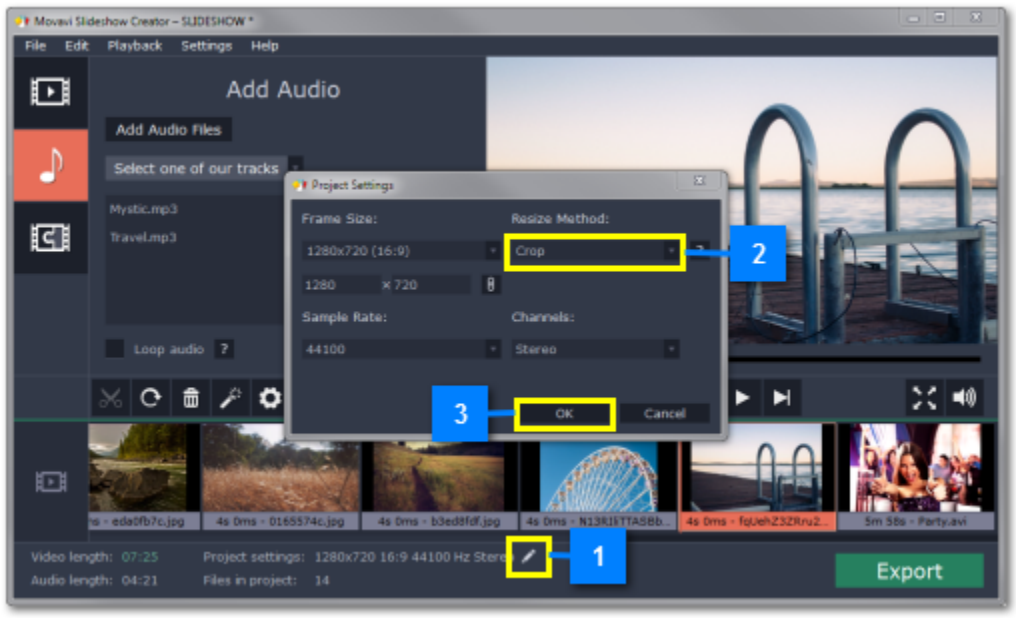
Sometimes, when you use videos of different aspect ratios, or if the project is set up incorrectly, some videos may have black bars around them. This can be fixed by adjusting the project settings, so that they fill up the whole frame.



Some clips have black bars around them

If some videos or photos have black bars around them, it is most likely that they have a different aspect ratio from that defined in the project settings. For example, even videos and photos shot with the same camera may differ in width and height, so that when you place them side by side, one of them may end up with black bars. To fix this, you can crop away the edges of those clips, so that they fill the entire frame:

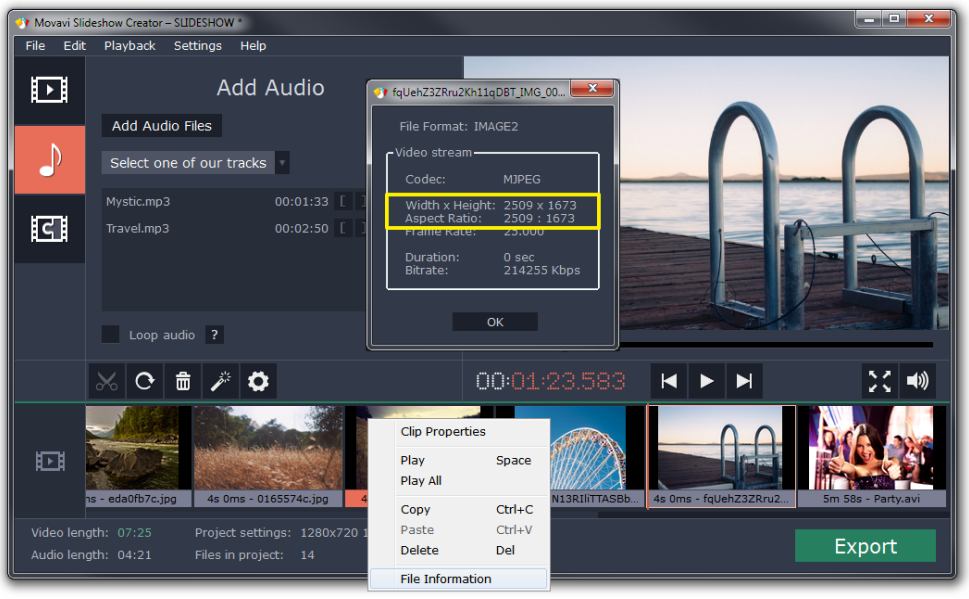
1. Beneath the Storyboard, find the **Project settings** information and click the pencil icon next to it to open the project settings window.
2. Open the **Resize Method** box and select **Crop** from the list.
3. Click **OK**.



All clips have black bars around them

If all of the clips have black bars around them, then it's a good idea to change the aspect ratio of the project to match that of the clips you are using.

1. First, you'll need to find out the size of the videos you are using, so that you can match it in project settings. To do that, right-click a clip on the Storyboard and choose **File Information** from the pop-up menu. Here, note the **width x height** size of the frame (e.g. 1920x1080) and the **aspect ratio** (e.g. 16:9).

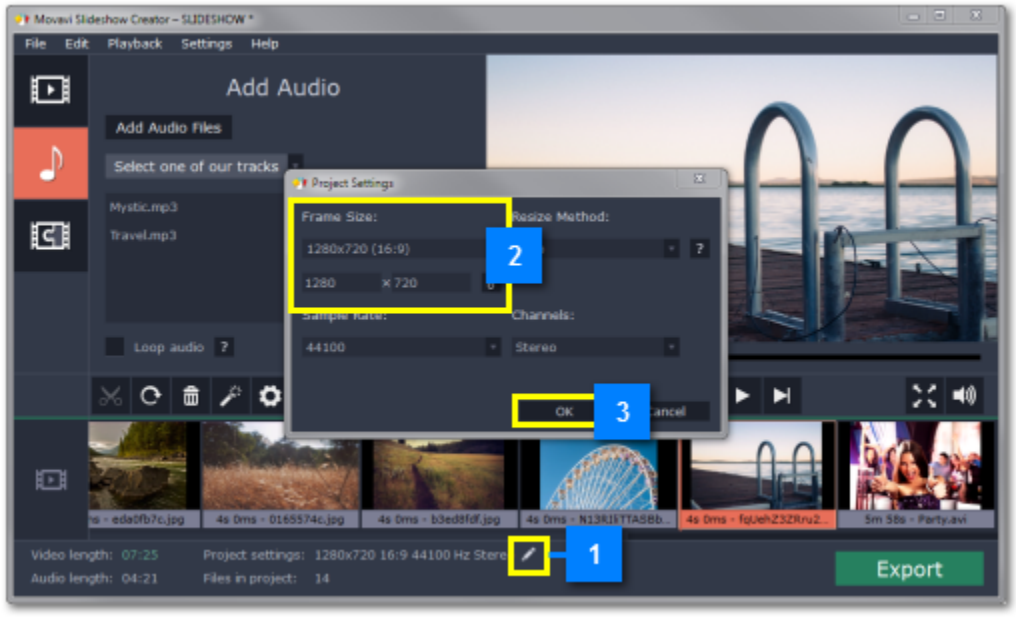


Now we'll need to set the project settings to the same frame size.

2. Beneath the Storyboard, find the **Project settings** information and click the pencil icon next to it to open the project settings window.

3. Under **Frame Size**, choose the frame size with the same aspect ratio as your videos. If you can't find it in the list, you can manually input the frame size into the boxes below.

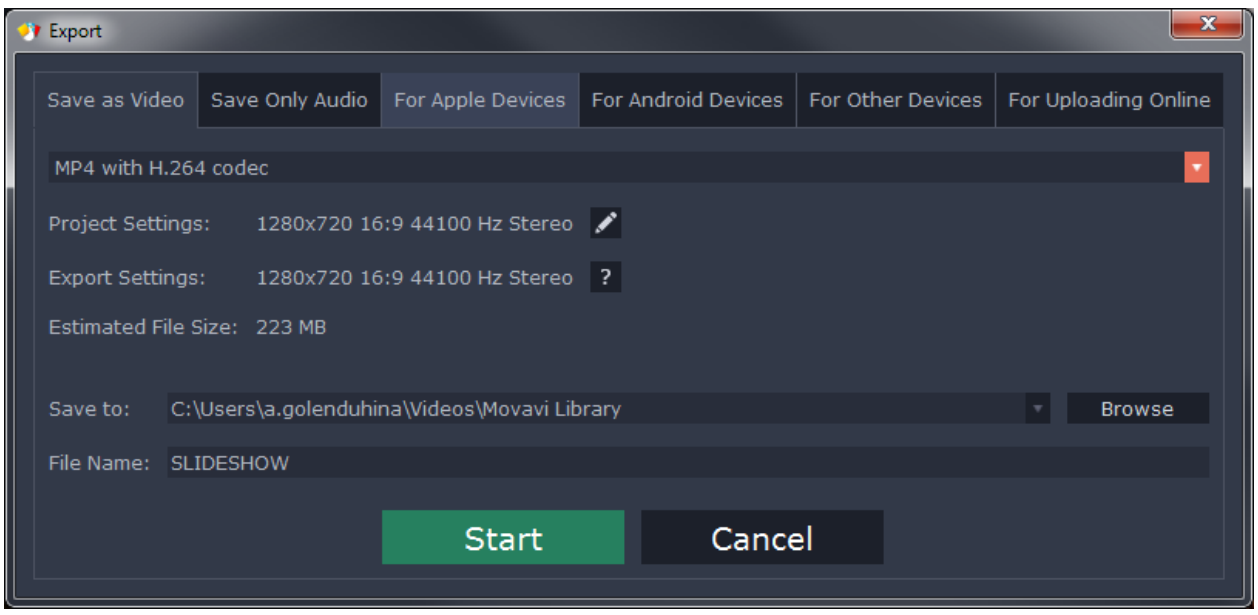
4. Click **OK** to accept the changes. The clips should now nicely fit inside the frame without any black bars.



Exporting Videos

When you're done with your project, you'll need to export it as a media file to be able to play it back in media players, mobile devices, and so on. This section will guide you through the process of exporting your project to a popular video format. If you want to find out more about other ways of saving videos, see the following guides:
Saving only audio
Saving videos for devices
Saving videos for uploading online

To start saving the video, click the **Export** button in the bottom right-hand corner of the Editor. The export settings window will open.



1. Open the list at the top of the window and choose a format for saving the video in. Some formats allow you to choose which video codec you want to use.

If you don't know which format to choose, try using **MP4 with the H.264 codec**. It can be played on most platforms and operating systems.

2. Check your project settings. When saving standard video, the video will be exported with the same settings that were set for the project. This way, the output video will appear exactly as you have seen it in the preview area. If you want to change the resolution, aspect ratio, or other settings, click the pencil icon to view and edit the project settings.

The **Estimated File Size** field shows how much disc space your file will require after saving. If the file size is too large, you can set a lower resolution in the Project Settings. At lower resolutions, the file will be significantly smaller, however the video will lose some quality due to the limitations of digital data compression. When changing resolutions, we recommend that you keep the same aspect ratio to avoid black bars around the video or other unwanted distortions.
Learn more about project settings

3. Name your file and choose a destination folder.
In the '**Save to**' field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the preferences. To set a different folder, click the **Browse** button and choose the folder in the Explorer window, or enter the path manually into the box.
Name your video in the **File Name** field: the project's name will be filled in for you by default.

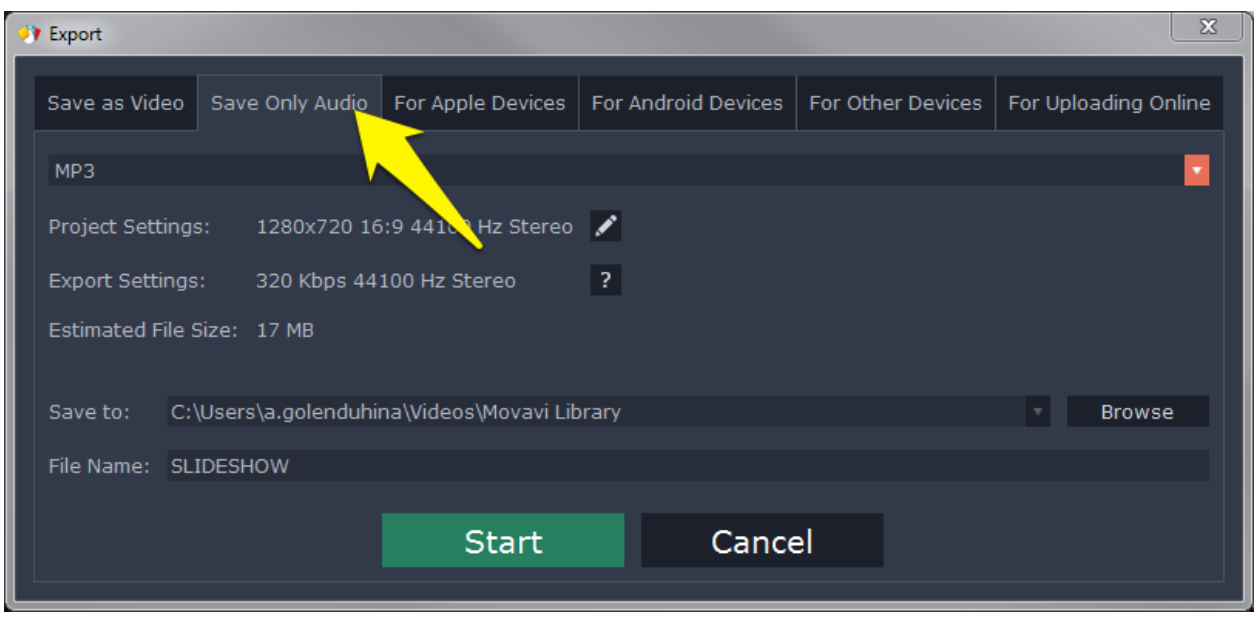
4. Click the **Start** button to begin processing the video file. This may take up to a few minutes.

Export Only Audio

This section will guide you through exporting just the audio track of your project.

1. Click the **Export** button in the bottom right-hand corner of the Editor to open the export settings window.

2. At the top of the Export window you will find a number of tabs. Click on the **Save Only Audio** tab



3. Open the list at the top of the tab and select the format you'd like to save the audio in.

While MP3 is the most commonplace format, supported by almost all media players and devices, FLAC format allows you to preserve high audio quality, albeit taking up considerably more disc space. When choosing an output format, it is important to note the quality of the original files: due to data compression limitations, digital audio cannot be restructured from very low quality files by saving them as FLAC audio, and vice versa – high quality files may lose some of that quality when saved to MP3 format which is limited to 320 Kbps.

4. When saving audio from your project, the audio file will retain the same sample rate and channel settings as you have set for your project. The audio bitrate will be determined from the quality of the original files and from the maximum bitrate for the selected format (for example, MP3 is limited to 320 Kbps, while FLAC bitrate is not limited).

5. Name your file and choose a destination folder.

In the '**Save to**' field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the preferences. To set a different folder, click the **Browse** button and choose the folder in the Explorer window, or enter the path manually into the box. Name your video in the **File Name** field: the project's name will be filled in for you by default.

6. Click the **Start** button to begin processing the video file. This may take up to a few minutes.

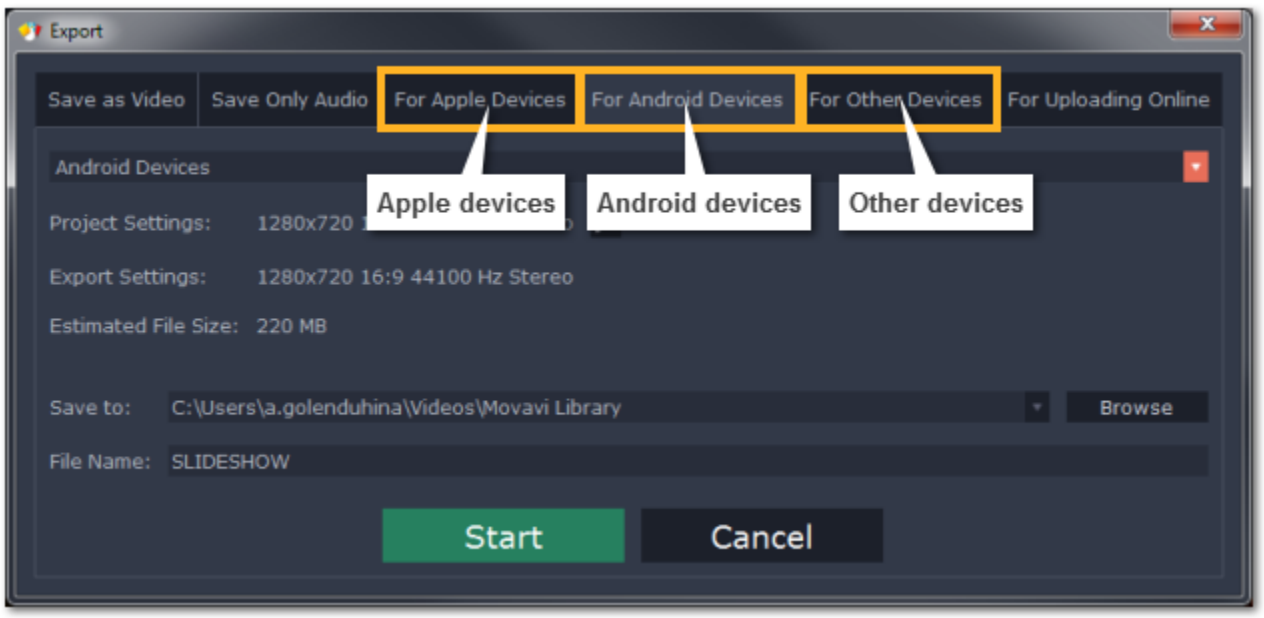
Export for Devices

This guide will help you export your slideshow for playing on mobile phones, tablets, TVs, and other devices.

1. In the bottom right hand corner of the Editor, click the **Export** button to open the export settings window.

2. At the top of the Export window, you will find a number of tabs for saving different kinds of media. Choose the necessary tab depending on your type of device:

- **For Apple Devices**: to save the video for devices made by Apple, including iPhones, iPads, iPods and Apple TV.
- **For Android Devices**: to save the video for smartphones, tablets, and other devices running the Android operating system.
- For Other Devices: to save the video for devices running neither iOS nor Android. These include Blackberry and Nokia smartphones, classic mobile phones with 3GP and 3G2 video, Xbox, PlayStation, Zune, and others.



3. Once you've opened the necessary tab, open the list at the top and select your device or manufacturer from the list.

4. Note the **Export Settings** information, where you can view the properties for the output file. Due to the limitations of some devices, the video resolution, audio quality, and other properties may be changed to adhere to the requirements of the selected device. **Estimated File Size** will give you a rough estimate of how much disk space the file will occupy, which may be important if your device is running out of memory.

5. Name your file and choose a destination folder.
In the '**Save to**' field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the preferences. To set a different folder, click the **Browse** button and choose the folder in the Explorer window, or enter the path manually into the box.
Name your video in the **File Name** field: the project's name will be filled in for you by default.

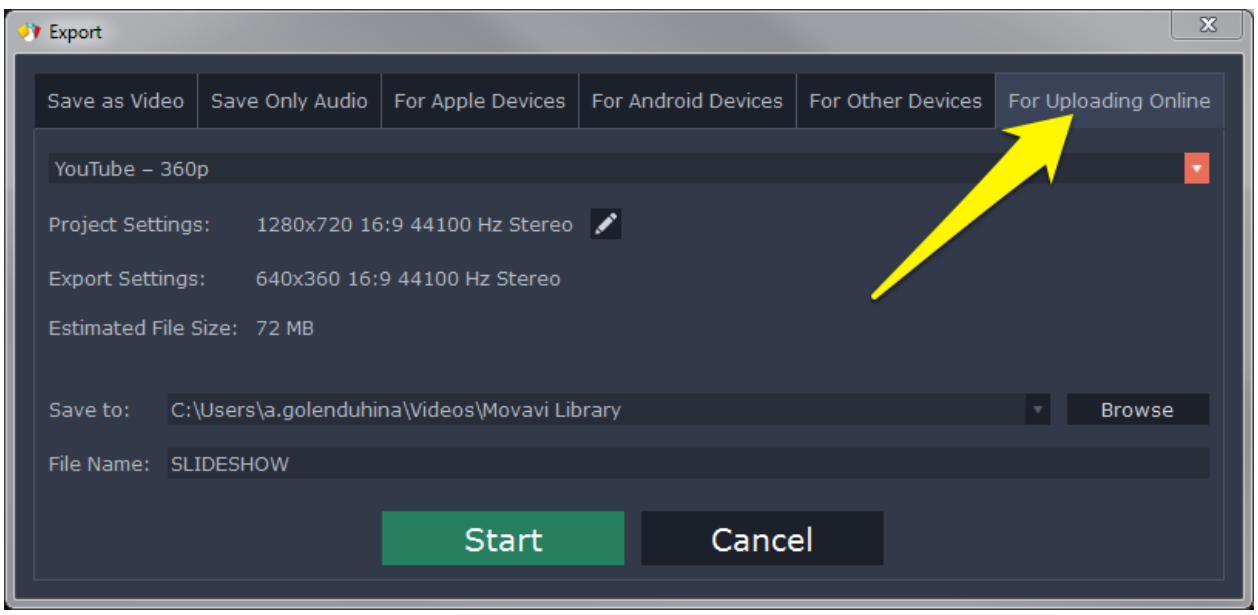
6. Click the **Start** button to begin processing the video file. This may take up to a few minutes.

Export Online

Movavi Slideshow Creator can help you prepare your slideshow for uploading it to YouTube and other video hosting sites.

1. When your project is complete, click the **Export** button in the bottom right hand corner to open the exporting window.

2. The upper part of the Export window contains a row of tabs. Click **For Uploading Online** to open the list of relevant settings.



3. Open the list at the top of the tab and choose a suitable format for saving your video.

For YouTube and other video sharing websites:
If you want to upload the video to a video hosting website, such as YouTube, you can simply choose one of the available presets, such as **YouTube - 720p**. For some, you can choose to save the video in a variety of resolutions: for example, you can choose HD or standard-definition video when saving for Vimeo. However, if the original videos are of HD quality, we recommend that you choose a higher resolution, as the video sharing service will automatically create a lower-resolution copy of your video for low-bandwidth viewers.

Please note that some video sharing websites, such as Vimeo, limit HD video uploads for different types of accounts. We advise you to check the website's upload restrictions, as well as any copyright policies, and to make sure that you have the right to publish the videos in question under copyright laws and your country's law.

YouTube Help – Increasing your upload limit
Vimeo FAQ

For your own website or web storage:
At the bottom of the list, you can find a number of web-ready formats. Choose the one that best fits your upload requirements. You can also embed YouTube videos into your blog or website: simply save your video using one of the YouTube options, upload the video to your YouTube account, go to your video's page and then click **Share**, and go to the **Embed** tab. YouTube will give you an HTML5 embed link for your video that you can use in your website or blog.

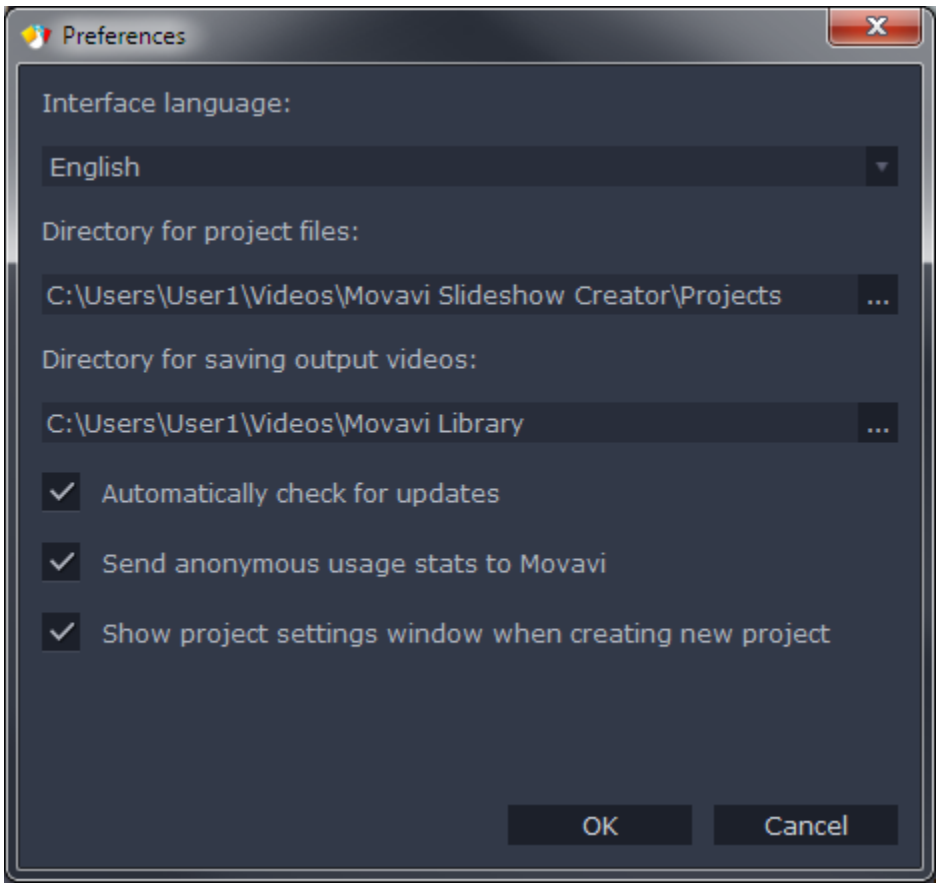
Note the **Export Settings** section, where you can see the properties that your output video will be saved with. These properties are defined by the selected format, resolution, or the requirements of the chosen video sharing website.

5. Name your file and choose a destination folder.
In the '**Save to**' field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the preferences. To set a different folder, click the **Browse** button and choose the folder in the Explorer window, or enter the path manually into the box. Name your video in the **File Name** field: the project's name will be filled in for you by default.

6. Click the **Start** button to begin processing the video file. This may take up to a few minutes.

Program Preferences

To open the preferences, click the **Settings** menu and select **Preferences**.



Interface Language – to change the interface language, simply select the necessary language from the list and click **OK** to apply the changes.

Directory for project files – this folder will by offered by default when saving and opening projects. This folder will also store any autosave files for new projects. You can use the autosave to restore your work in case of an error. The default folder is *\Videos\Movavi Slideshow Creator\Projects*.

Directory for saving output videos – this folder will be offered by default when exporting media files. The default folder is *\Videos\Movavi Slideshow Creator*\.

Automatically check for updates – enable Movavi Slideshow Creator to check for updates on startup and you'll be notified whenever a new version is available. Updates within your version are absolutely free (e.g. 1.0 to 1.1), while new releases are offered with a hefty discount to registered users.

Send anonymous usage stats to Movavi – checking this box will allow Movavi Slideshow Creator to send usage statistics to our development team, enabling us to fix any bugs you may encounter much faster, as well as add new features that you might be missing. The data sent by Movavi Video Converter contains no personal information, will not be disclosed to third parties and will be used for software improvement purposes only.
Learn more about how we use the statistics
Read our Privacy Policy

Show project settings window when creating new project – with this option enabled, you will be prompted to select settings for the new project on startup and when creating new projects. You can choose the project's aspect ratio and other settings, as well as open an existing project.

When you're done, click **OK** to close the window and apply the preferences.

Help & Support

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Movavi software, you are welcome to contact our support team. Please describe your problem in as much detail as possible; any screenshots or log files will allow us to help you faster.

You can contact us using:
E-mail: support@movavi.com – guaranteed response in 3 business days
Live Chat – available 12 A.M. — 6 P.M. GMT \ 4 P.M. — 10 A.M. PST

Our support team specialists may ask you for additional information that is required to solve your problem: these may include your license key, log files, screenshots, and files you were working with, but never personal information. We value your privacy!

Have you checked the FAQ section?
Your question may have already been answered!

How to activate Slideshow Creator
How to buy the software
How to update the graphics card drivers
More frequently asked questions

Updating Graphics Card Drivers

If you encounter an error message asking you to update your graphics drivers, you will need to download a new driver from your graphics card manufacturer's website and install it on your system. Some graphics card drivers also have a useful utility that notifies you when a driver update is available and updates the driver automatically. Keeping your graphics card drivers up-to-date will ensure stable performance of applications and games on your computer.

Step 1: Find your graphics card manufacturer

1. Right-click your desktop and choose Screen Resolution
2. In the Screen Resolution settings window, click Advanced settings.
3. This will open your graphics card properties. At the top of the window, your graphics card model will be listed under the Adapter Type section. Note the full name of the graphics card somewhere for later.

Step 2: Download the new version

Now that you've learned your graphics card manufacturer and model, go to the manufacturer's website and find driver downloads. There, look for the model or series that you've found earlier and download the driver installation file. Some manufacturers may also offer a utility that will automatically find the necessary driver.
NVIDIA driver downloads
AMD driver downloads

Warning:
Only download drivers from the official manufacturer's website. Third-party websites offering driver downloads may contain malware.

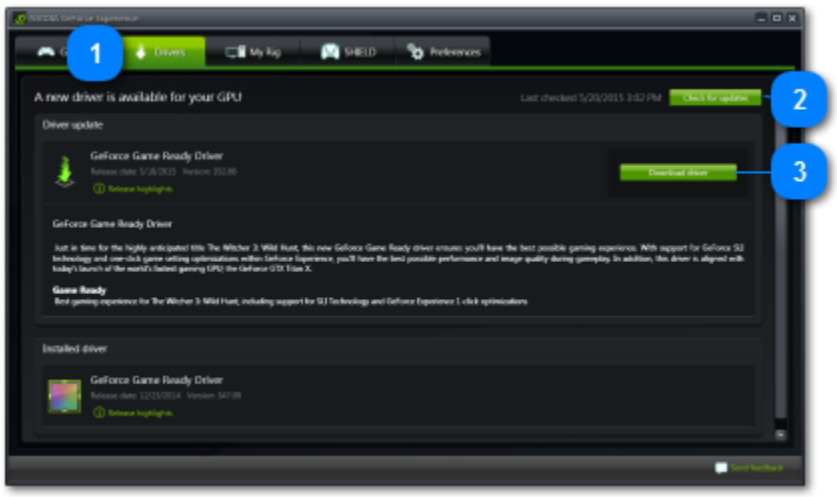
Step 3: Install driver

Once the file is completely downloaded, run the installation file and follow the onscreen instructions to install the driver on your system. Your display may blink several times in the process. After the installation has finished, it is advised that you restart the computer.

Updating NVIDIA® Driver

Modern NVIDIA graphics cards come with a special application called **NVIDIA GeForce™ Experience** that monitors driver updates and allows you to optimize your computer's graphics performance.

1. Open the **NVIDIA GeForce Experience** application. It should already be installed on your system. If you cannot find the application, please try the method above.
2. In the **Drivers** section, click the **Check for updates** button to find the latest drivers.
3. When the application has found a newer driver, click the **Download driver** button. From here, the software will automatically download and install the necessary driver for your system.



Updating AMD® or ATI® Driver

1. If you have an AMD or ATI graphics card, go to the Driver Download Center on AMD's official website.
AMD Driver Download Center

2. Download the auto detect utility and run it when the download has finished.
Auto Detect Utility

3. The utility will then automatically find your graphics card and help you download and install the right driver for your system.

If the utility fails to find a driver for you, you can manually select your graphics card model and operating system on the Driver Downloads page and download the driver.

4. After the driver has downloaded, run the installation file and follow the on-screen instructions to install it.

5. After the driver has been installed, it is recommended that you restart your computer.

If none of the above steps have helped, feel free to contact our support team via e-mail or live chat.
support@movavi.com
Live Chat

If possible, please include the name of your graphics card model (see Step 1), as well as screenshots of any error messages you have encountered. This will help our support team specialists solve your problem quicker.

Supported Formats

Here you can view the list of formats and codecs supported by Movavi Slideshow Creator.

Video Formats	Supported Codecs	
3GPP (.3gp), 3GPP2 (.3g2)	Read / Write	H.263
	Read Only	H.264, MPEG-4
Advanced Streaming Format (.asf)	Read Only	MPEG-4, VC-1, WMV V7
Audio Video Interleave (.avi)	Read / Write	H.264, MPEG-4
	Read Only	H.263, MJPEG, DivX, Xvid, DV, Cinepack, Fraps, TechSmith, Uncompressed
DivX Video (.divx)	Read Only	DivX
Flash (.flv)	Read / Write	H.264
	Read Only	FLV1, H.263, Flash Screen Video
Flash (.swf)	Read / Write	FLV1
	Read Only	MJPEG
HD-видео (.m2ts, .mkv, .mov, .mp4, .mpg, .wmv)	Read / Write	MPEG-2, MPEG-4, H.264, WMV V8
HD-видео (.m2t, .mts, .ts, .wmv)	Read Only	MPEG-2, MPEG-4, H.264, AVCHD,WMV 9, WMV 9 Advanced profile
Matroska (.mkv)	Read / Write	H.264
	Read Only	MPEG-4, MJPEG, Theora, DV, Uncompressed
MPEG Transport Stream (.m2ts)	Read / Write	H.264
MPEG Transport Stream (.ts, .mts, .m2t)	Read Only	MPEG-2, H.264
MPEG (.mpg)	Read / Write	MPEG-1, MPEG-2
MPEG (.mpeg, .mpe, .m1v, .mod, .tod)	Read Only	MPEG-1, MPEG-2, H.264
MPEG-4 (.mp4)	Read / Write	MPEG-4, H.264
	Read Only	H.263, MJPEG, ProRes
MPEG-4 (.m4v)	Read Only	MPEG-4, H.264, H.263, MJPEG, ProRes
MXF – Material eXchange Format (.mxf)	Read Only	MPEG-2, DV
OGV – Ogg Video (.ogv)	Read / Write	Theora
	Read Only	MPEG-4
QuickTime (.mov)	Read / Write	H.264
	Read Only	MPEG-4, AIC, MJPEG, ProRes, Sorenson 1/3, PNG
QuickTime (.qt)	Read Only	H.264, MPEG-4, AIC, MJPEG, ProRes, Sorenson 1/3
RM – RealMedia (.rm, .rmvb)	Read Only	Real Video 2/3/4, Cooker
WebM (.webm)	Read / Write	VP8
	Read Only	VP7, VP9
WMV – Windows Media Video (.wmv)	Read / Write	WMV V8
	Read Only	WMV V7, WMV 9, WMV 9 Screen,WMV 9 Advanced profile, MPEG-4,WMV 9.1 Image V2
WTV – Windows Recorded TV Show (.wtv)	Read Only	H.264, MPEG-2

Audio Formats	Supported Codecs	
AAC – Advanced Audio Coding (.aac)	Read / Write	AAC
AMR – Adaptive Multi-Rate audio codec (.amr, .3ga)	Read Only	AMR
AIFF – Audio Interchange File Format (.aif,.aiff)	Read Only	Uncompressed
APE – Monkey's Audio (.ape)	Read Only	Monkey's Audio
Au (.au, .snd)	Read Only	PCM
FLAC – Free Lossless Audio Codec (.flac)	Read / Write	FLAC
MP3 – MPEG-1/2 Audio Layer III (.mp3)	Read / Write	MP3
MPEG-4 (.m4a, .m4b)	Read / Write	AAC
MPEG-4 (.m4a, .m4b)	Read Only	AAC, PCM, ALAC
OGG – Ogg Audio (.ogg)	Read / Write	Vorbis
WAV – Waveform Audio File Format (.wav)	Read / Write	PCM
	Read Only	AAC, MP3
WMA – Windows Media Audio (.wma)	Read / Write	WMA 9

	Read Only	WMA Pro, WMA Voice
Image Formats	**Supported Codecs**	
BMP (.bmp)	Read Only	BMP
DPX (.dpx)	Read Only	DPX
GIF (.gif)	Read Only	GIF
JPEG (.jpg. jpg, .jp2, .jls)	Read Only	MJPEG, JPEG2000, JPEGLS
Netpbm formats (.pgm, .pbm, .ppm, .pam)	Read Only	PGM, PBM, PPM, PAM, PGMYUV
PCX (.pcx)	Read Only	PCX
PNG (.png)	Read Only	PNG
PTX (.ptx)	Read Only	PTX
SGI (.sgi)	Read Only	SGI
TARGA (.tga)	Read Only	TARGA
XBM (.xbm)	Read Only	XBM
XWD (.xwd)	Read Only	XWD

You can view the full list of supported devices here.

System Requirements

Movavi Slideshow Creator		
Operating system	Windows XP/Vista/7/8 with latest service packs and patches	
Processor	Dual-core Intel, AMD or compatible processor, 1 GHz	Quad-core processor, 2.2 GHz and above
Graphics	NVIDIA® GeForce™ series 6 or higher AMD Radeon™ R600 or higher graphics card with up-to-date drivers	
Resolution	1024x768, 32-bit color	1280x1024 or higher
RAM	Windows XP, Vista – 512 MB Windows 7, 8 – 1 GB	Windows XP, Vista – 1 GB Windows 7, 8 – 2 GB
Available disk space	400 MB for installation 500 MB for ongoing operations	2 GB
Additional features		Sound card for audio playback Latest version of QuickTime Player for Windows for MOV processing

Movavi Slideshow Creator may also run on slower machines, however, we cannot guarantee stable performance if the minimum requirements are not met. Downloading and installing updates also requires a stable Internet connection.

Glossary

The following is a list of some terms that you may come across while working with video and audio. You won't need to know all of these to use Movavi software, but if you want to learn more about the specifics of media file processing, you can start here.

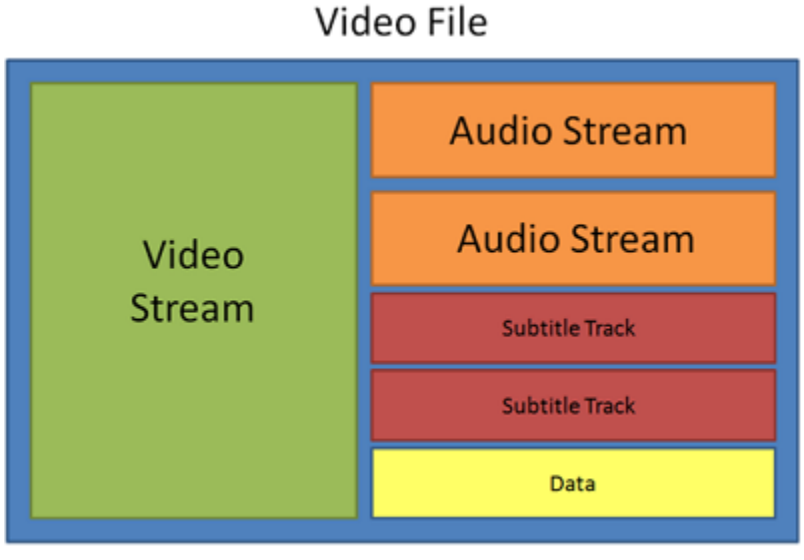
General

Aspect Ratio

A video's aspect ratio is the ratio of a video's width to its height in pixels. The two most frequently used aspect ratios are 4:3 and 16:9. The former is used by most analog television broadcasts, while the latter, also referred to as widescreen – in films, DVDs, and modern HD video. When the aspect ratios of your screen and a video do not match, you may notice black bars on two sides of the video.

Container Format (Video Format)

A container format is a file format for storing video or audio files that *contains* video and audio data in separate streams, as well as any other associated data, such as subtitle tracks and additional data about the file. You can think of a container format as a box that holds together all the parts that make up a video file, as illustrated below. The container format is what you usually see when you work with video files: you can judge which format your video is in by the file extension: *.mp4 corresponds to MP4 format, *.mkv to Matroska format, etc.



Codec

While a video file contains video and audio streams, these streams are in turn *encoded* using a video or audio codec that compresses the data. You can think of a codec as a language: to play a video encoded with a certain codec, your player needs to be able to 'understand' how it was encoded, so that it can *decode* or decipher the file. If your computer does not know how to decode a new codec, you can fix this by converting the file to a different format or by installing a codec pack. However, please keep in mind that a lot of malware programs disguise themselves as codec packs; you should only download codec packs directly from codec manufacturers or from trusted sources.

Bitrate

When referring to media, bitrate is the number of bits that is played back each second. The higher the bitrate, the more details that can be conveyed with each second of the video or audio stream, and therefore, the higher the quality. There are two types of bitrate: constant bitrate (CBR) and variable bitrate (VBR). Videos with **constant bitrate**, as you can probably guess from the name, have the same bitrate for each and every frame of the video, no matter the complexity of the frame: simple frames, for example, those completely filled with black, have the same number of bits as complex, colorful frames. This has a number of limitations, since the simple frames take up more bits than needed to convey them, while complex frames are limited in quality. With **variable bitrate**, however, each frame is allotted only as many bits as it needs, without limiting quality or wasting data. In most cases, we recommend that you use variable bitrate, however, you CBR is sometimes useful for streaming media.

Frame Rate

The frame rate, or frames per second (FPS) is the number of video frames that is contained in a second of video. At low frame rates, you may notice that the video is 'jittery', while higher frame rates produce a smooth high-quality video. Shooting videos at high frame rates (48 or 60 FPS) requires more resources and disc space, but you can easily slow down a high-FPS video to produce a slow-motion effect without producing visual stutter. The industry standard for cinema frame rate is 24 or 25 frames per second, which is perceived as comfortable to the human eye.

Interlaced Video, Deinterlacing Video

Video interlacing is a method used in traditional analogue video broadcasting that arose due to the limitations of early television. Each frame of the video is split into half-frames, each frame containing even and odd rows consecutively. This allows to broadcast at double the frame rate, producing a seemingly smoother video stream, while the eye does not notice the missing rows. However, on digital displays, interlaced video may produce visible defects in the form of horizontal lines. Deinterlacing helps remove these defects using algorythms by merging the two half-frames into one. Movavi Video Converter automatically deinterlaces output videos.

Remuxing

Many container formats support a number of common codecs, such as H.264, which can be stored in MP4, AVI, M2TS, MKV, MOV, and other formats. When you convert a video that is encoded with a codec supported by both the input and output container formats, you can simply transfer the video stream from one container format to another, without having to re-encode it. This process is called *remuxing* and it allows you to save a lot of time, since video re-encoding is the longest part of the conversion process.

Resolution (Frame Size)

Resolution is the number of pixels that can fit inside the video frame. It is usually presented as "width x height" of the frame, for example, 1280x720 or 1920x1080. Sometimes, resolutions may also be referred to as "720p" or "1080p", by the number of pixels in a frame vertically. At high resolutions, each frame is conveyed using more pixels, therefore allowing for more detail and higher quality, though taking up more disc space. Whenever you convert a video to a lower resolution, you irretrievably lose some data, but if you convert a low-resolution video to HD, the quality will stay the same. If you need to do so, however, we recommend that you use *Upscale SD, DVD to HD* presets in Movavi Video Converter, as they use an algorythm that slightly improves video quality when converting to larger resolutions.

Sample Rate
Sample rate, measured in Hertz, determines how many samples of digital audio are recorded each second. Higher sample rates allow to record higher quality audio, although the files will take up slightly more space. The recommended sample rate is 44100 Hz, which is the standard for audio CDs, delivering sound that covers the full range of human hearing. To reduce file size, you can convert audio with lower sample rates, as low as 22 kHz, but keep in mind the quality deterioration.

Subtitles
A subtitle is text that appears on screen (usually at the bottom) that reproduces the video's dialogue or presents additional explanatory text and sound effects. Subtitles are frequently used by people hard of hearing, language learners, and when an audio translation is unavailable. The subtitles may be embedded within the video container file (also known as *softsub*), saved as a separate file in *.srt, *.ass, *.sub, and other subtitle formats, or drawn over the video stream in such a way that they cannot be disabled (*hardsub*).

Video Formats
Audio Video Interleaved – AVI (*.avi)
AVI is a multimedia container format created by Microsoft in the early 1990s. AVI supports multiple video and audio codecs and can contain up to 16 audio and 16 subtitle tracks. While support for AVI is widespread on all operating systems, it is steadily being replaced by more efficient formats.

DivX (*.divx)
DivX is a proprietary video format developed by DivX, Inc. Using its own codec, DivX allows for high compression rates while retaining high quality. Sometimes the DivX codec is also used to encode video in AVI files. DivX is not supported by many media players, and requires a codec pack to play. Movavi Video Editor can open DivX files, while Movavi Video Converter can open and convert DivX files to any other format.

Flash Video Format – FLV (*.flv)
Developed by Macromedia and currently owned by Adobe, FLV is frequently used for web video, as it is supported by most web browsers and is accepted by most video sharing services and social networks. FLV can contain video encoded in Sorenson, FLV1, VP6 and H.264 codecs.

QuickTime – MOV (*.mov)
Developed by Apple, QuickTime is natively supported on Macs and iOS devices, so if you need to be sure that your video can be played on a Mac, converting it to MOV would be a good idea. If you are preparing your files to also be played on a Windows computer, it's best to convert it to MP4, as Windows computers need to download and install QuickTime from Apple's official website in order to play MOV videos.

SWF (*.swf)
Developed by Macromedia and currently owned by Adobe, SWF (formerly Shockwave Flash) is a video and graphics format related to Flash video that can cointain video, animations, vector images, and other content. Usually created in proprietary Adobe software, SWF files are supported by Adobe Flash Player and most web browsers, which makes it an efficient way of sharing content online due to the small file size.

WebM
WebM is a free open-source container format developed by Google. It primarily functions as a widespread web video format that can easily be embedded in HTML5 video tags. WebM can contain video encoded in the free VP8 and VP9 video codecs and Vorbis audio.

Movavi File Formats
*.mep, *.mep2
Used in Movavi Video Editor to create editing projects that store file references, order of files on the timeline, applied effects, and all other work on the project.

*.mscproj, *.mrec
Used in Movavi Screen Capture to store temporary recording data, including the recording itself, as well as all settings used for the project.